

that only a small number of immigrants leave the colony at the expiration of their industrial residence. In the manufacture also of sugar from the cane considerable improvement has been effected by the introduction of new methods of boiling and grinding. The vacuum pan and the system of Wetsell are all tending to economize the cost of production, and to save that loss which for years amounted, in grinding alone, to nearly one-third of the juice of the cane. The planters begin to find that they can increase the value of their sugar from 30 to 40 per cent. by these improvements, and that their future prosperity depends upon carrying them out. Unfortunately, however, here, as in many other of our colonies, a very large number of planters do not yet appreciate the advantages to be obtained by the adoption of improved machinery and manufacture, or by improved cultivation. The shipments of sugar from the colony for the crops 1849, 1850, and 1851, have been as follows:

	1849.	1850.	1851.
To United Kingdom:	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
London, . . .	57,537,928	33,641,143	53,124,574
Liverpool, . . .	1,175,339	3,436,139	5,447,544
Plymouth, . . .	...	537,387	425,108
Falmouth, . . .	607,320	...	...
Scilly, . . .	...	616,153	603,381
Cork for orders, . . .	40,788,422	59,077,073	42,546,942
Belfast, . . .	...	1,417,292	...
Londonderry, . . .	554,939	...	...
Clyde, . . .	3,548,972	5,962,905	10,998,711
	104,212,920	106,288,692	113,146,260
To C. of Good Hope,	...	...	...
St. Helena, . . .	9,685,256	9,575,574	10,688,852
Australian colonies, . . .	64,486	26,412	...
New Zealand, . . .	5,932,454	4,999,071	6,676,271
California, . . .	...	149,942	...
Mascot, . . .	436,682	423,573	...
Aden, . . .	...	...	115,728
Ceylon, . . .	...	886	26,851
Bally, . . .	113	...	...
Pondicherry, . . .	135	...	...
Madagascar, . . .	...	543	154
Nicobar islands, . . .	551	...	...
New York, . . .	...	192,551	...
	...	376	...

Shpd. to July 26, 1850, 116,332,587 1851, 114,657,570 1852, 130,556,116

*Commerce.* Next to sugar, ebony and tortoise-shell are the principal articles of export from the M. In 1837 the total value of the exports, including £77,792 of imports re-exported, was £831,050, of which sugar alone formed £739,972. The imports in the same year amounted to £1,085,783, of which British manufactures comprised £345,744. In 1845, the exports were £1,259,680; and in 1849, £1,165,963, whereof £988,304 were to Great Britain, and £60,878 to Australia. The value of the imports in 1845 was £1,206,918; and in 1849, £1,098,694, whereof £328,333 were from the United Kingdom, and £507,133 from British India. The value of imports in 1851 was £1,086,243, whereof £1,007,235 were in British vessels. The exports in that year amounted to £993,199, whereof £940,734 were in British vessels.—The following is a return of the tonnage of vessels entered inwards with cargo, from 1840:

Year.	British.	Foreign.
1840, . . .	88,068 tons.	10,455 tons.
1841, . . .	116,298	10,216
1842, . . .	92,699	12,371
1843, . . .	136,066	8,450
1844, . . .	102,822	9,556
1845, . . .	108,069	13,177
1846, . . .	122,052	13,177
1847, . . .	111,228	7,382
1848, . . .	118,704	8,719
1849, . . .	107,874	7,790
1850, . . .	115,896	20,744

*Population.* There are no villages in the island, and only one town, which is the seat of government, and the resort of trade for the whole island. About half-a-dozen houses may sometimes be found together in the country; but the plantations are scattered irregularly over the surface, and families within a mile of each other are considered as very near neighbours. The pop., which in 1810 was only 30,000, is considered as now about 150,000. The proportion of slaves, chiefly from Mozambique and Madagascar,

was to the whites and free people of colour as ten to one during the existence of slavery. Between January 1843 and 31st August 1849, 78,000 men, women, and children had entered the colony as labourers, of whom 7,396 have died, and 12,580 returned to their native country. The middle classes are generally very industrious, and excel as mechanics. The higher ranks of settlers are said to be extremely hospitable; but at no very distant period were in general very lax in their morals, and often openly licentious. Mr. Pridham informs us that society in the M. now "approaches nearer to the European standard than it does in the majority of the British colonies." The same authority says that of the three religious parties in the M. the church of Rome has at once the pre-eminence in the antiquity of its foundation and its numerical superiority. The white and Creole population are, with few exceptions, Romanists. The larger proportion of the *ci-devant* slaves are also members of that church. The whole number of members of the church of Rome in the colony may be estimated at 75,000, though the average attendance of worshippers at its services cannot be said to exceed 2,500. There are two churches, one at St. Louis, the other at Pamplemousses. Added to these are 7 chapels. The services are conducted by 7 priests, most of whom reside at St. Louis, presided over by a bishop, with the title of 'Bishop of Ruspia.' In some cases a small glebe is attached to the house of the priests. Their stipends are paid by the colony. The remainder of the religious community may be divided into two sections—the church of England, and the Protestant dissenters. The former ranks among its adherents almost the whole of the officers of government, a portion of the military, some Anglo-Indians or other resident strangers, and a few Negroes. The whole number of members does not, however, exceed 1,000. There is but one Episcopal church at St. Louis, capable of containing 500 persons. The service is here performed by a civil and military chaplain on the colonial establishment. The M. forms an archdeaconry in the dio. of the Cape. The number of Protestant dissenters is extremely limited. It includes two or three Huguenot families, a body of Independents with chapels at Port-Louis, Mapou, and Piton, and of Wesleyans with a chapel at Mahébourg.

*Government and revenue.* The government of this fine island is vested in a governor with a salary of £7,000, and a legislative council composed of 15 members. Justice is administered by a supreme civil and criminal court with 3 judges, a petty court, and several inferior courts. The troops employed in the colony in 1847-8 amounted to 1,696 men; in 1849-50 to 1,737 men, of whom 169 were artillery. The net military charges in 1847-8 were £124,986. The revenue and expenditure of the colony for the last three years were as follows:—

	1848.	1849.	1850.
Revenue, . . .	£25,092	£23,617	£23,527
Expenditure, . . .	62,659	38,906	34,315

The revenue for 1851 produced £321,390, against the estimate of £292,762, being an increase of £28,628. The expenditure was £259,728, instead of £279,157 as estimated, showing a decrease of £19,429. The actual surplus of revenue over expenditure therefore amounted to £61,662 in favour of the colony, against a surplus of £42,000, at the close of the fiscal year 1850. The revenue for 1852 was estimated at £320,000, and the expenditure at £291,200, which would give at the close of the year a balance in favour of the treasury of £28,000, less £20,000 taxes, remitted as follows:—

Export quay-dues,	£5,500
Export duty on sugar,	7,500
Harbour-dues,	1,000
Registration-dues,	5,000
Postal-charges,	1,000
	£20,000

In accordance with the recommendation of the governor, the legislature had abolished the quay dues of 1d. per bag, and reduced the export duty upon sugar from 6d. to 4½d. per cwt. The alteration came into operation on the 5th February 1852.

*Divisions.*] The island is divided into 11 districts, which are named Poudre-d'Or, Pamplémousses, Flacq, Rivière-du-Rempart, Trois-Islets, Grand-Port, Savane, Quartier-Militaire, Moka, Plaines-de-Wilhelms, and Plaines-St.-Pierre. The district of Poudre-d'Or, in the N part of the island, is a level plain, formed of shells and other marine productions, and apparently left dry by the retiring of the ocean. The district of Pamplémousses, adjoining the last-mentioned, is of a similar description; and in their arid plains are chiefly produced sugar and indigo, excepting a few marshy spots on which rice is cultivated. In this quarter a considerable tract was reserved by the government, part of which is occupied by a public garden stored with the rarest trees of India and other warm climates. Most of the other districts have a soil of a volcanic nature, and some of them are still covered with the ancient forests. Those of Grand-Port and Flacq were the first occupied by the Dutch. Moka, a fine plain, well cultivated, and covered with vegetation, and situated to the S of the mountains of Pouce and the Plaines-de-Wilhelms, separated from the last-mentioned by Grand-Rivière, and stretching towards the centre of the island, are more recently cleared. Quarter-Militaire is only begun to be occupied, and its distance from the city, and want of good roads, are likely to retard its cultivation. Trois-Islets, around the central mountain, is altogether wet and marshy.

*Harbours and towns.*] There are two ports in the island, Port Bourbon on the SE coast, and Port Louis on the NW coast. The former possesses the largest and most commodious harbour; but as it lies to windward, it is not so favourable for vessels taking their departure. The latter was preferred by Bourdonnais, as, on account of its situation to the leeward, it was more difficult to be reached by an attacking force, and more favourable for the trading ships getting out to sea. Great labour, however, was necessary to keep the channel from being choked up by the gravel, which was washed down by the torrents from the adjoining mountains, and to deepen the entrance of the inner harbour, called Trou Fanfaron, which is a fine basin, 300 fath. in length, 60 f. in breadth, and perfectly sheltered from the most violent winds.—The principal, and indeed the only town on the island is that of Port-Louis, situated at the bottom of the harbour, and at the opening of a valley, which is shut in on the land-side by lofty and rugged declivities.

*History.*] This island was discovered by the Portuguese. The Dutch took possession of it, and called it Mauritius, from Prince Maurice their stadholder. On taking possession of the Cape of Good Hope, their settlement on this island was abandoned; and it remained without a possessor till 1715, when the French seized it, and in their hands, though under the management of a company till 1767, it soon became an important military station, at which their own ships were sheltered and equipped, and from which, in time of war, they were enabled to annoy with great effect the British East India trade. In order to get rid of this annoyance, and to possess themselves of a station which afforded such vast advantage to their enemies, the British fitted out an expedition from the East Indies in 1810 under the direction of Admiral Bertie and General Abercrombie. On the 29th of November, the troops effected a landing; and on the 4th December a capitulation was signed, by which the whole island, with an immense quantity of stores and valuable merchandise, 6 large

frigates, and 30 sail of other vessels, with above 200 pieces of ordnance in the forts and batteries, were surrendered to the British. This valuable acquisition was confirmed to Britain by the treaty of Paris, 1814. The peculiarly favourable position of the M. must place it beyond question of the last importance to England. Properly defended, it is unattackable, save by a combined naval and military force which no power, without due warning, could bring against it. It possesses the only harbour of refuge within the wide circle embracing the whole range of the African continent, Ceylon, and India, and sweeping round by Borneo, the Eastern islands, and New Holland, and finishing the compass with the illimitable range of the Southern ocean, situated in the direct line homeward from India and China, and with but a slight deviation from the colonies in New Holland; its position must be considered extremely valuable, for the facilities which its harbour offers for the reparation of damages to shipping, and such as to justify the importance which is attached to its preservation.

*Authorities.*] *Flinder's Voyage*, vol. ii.—*Grant's Account of Mauritius*.—*Voyage dans les quatre principales îles des Mers Africaines*, par J. B. C. M. Bory de St. Vincent.—*England's Colonial Empire*. By C. Fridham. Vol. I, 8vo.

**MAURO (SAN)**, a town of Naples, in the prov. of the Principato-Citra, district and 12 m. WSW of Il Vallo, cant. and 2 m. N of Pollicia. Pop. 800.—Also a village in the prov. of Basilicata, district and 24 m. SW of Matera. Pop. 2,900.—Also a town of Sicily, in the prov. and 57 m. ESE of Palermo, district and 16 m. SSE of Cefalù.

**MAUROMATI**, a village of Greece, in the district of Ithome, dep. of Messenia. The v. is situated on either side of a fine spring at the foot of the hill of Ithome, nearly in the centre of the enclosure of the ancient city of *Messene*.

**MAURON**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of Morbihan, and arrond. of Ploërmel. The cant. comprises 7 com. Pop. in 1831, 8,948; in 1841, 8,704. The town is 13 m. NNE of Ploërmel, on the Due. Pop. in 1841, 3,967.

**MAUROUARD**, an islet off the E coast of Van Diemen's Land, to the S of St. Helen's Point. It is about 1 m. in diam.

**MAUROUX**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Lot, and cant. of Puy-l'Eveque, 21 m. NW of Cahors. Pop. 950.

**MAURS**, a cauton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of Cantal, and arrond. of Aurillac. The cant. comprises 10 com. Pop. in 1831, 12,429; in 1841, 12,838. The town is 21 m. SW of Aurillac, on a hill, near the r. bank of the Rance. Pop. 3,004. It has several tanneries, manufactories of hardware, nails and cutlery, and wax-candles, and carries on an active trade in horses, cattle, pigs, hams, wine, chestnuts, wax, hemp, staves, linen, leather, and nails. The environs afford excellent pasturage.

**MAURUA**. See MAURA.

**MAURY**, a central county of the state of Tennessee, U. S., comprising an area of 570 sq. m., drained by Duck river and many other streams. Pop. in 1840, 28,168, of whom 10,002 were slaves. Pop. in 1850, 29,520. Its capital is Columbia.

**MAUSSANE**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Bouches-du-Rhône, cant. and 5 m. from St. Remy, on the Conille. Pop. 1,402. It has an active trade in the fine oils of the country.

**MAUTERN**, a town of the archduchy of Austria, in the circle of the Wienerwalde, 14 m. N of St. Polten, and 42 m. WNW of Vienna, on the r. bank of the Danube, which is here crossed by a fine stone-bridge. Pop. 680. Near this town the Austrians were signally defeated in 1484, by Mathias, king of Hungary.—Also a market-town of Styria, in the circle and 20 m. W of Bruck, on the l. bank of the Lassing. It has several mineral baths, and in the environs are an iron-mine and several forges.

**MAUTERNDORF**, a town of the archduchy of Austria, in the lgh. of Lintz, circle and 57 m. SSE of Salzburg. Pop. 983.

**MAUTH, MAUT, or WYSOKÉ-METTO**, a market-town of Austria, in Bohemia, circle and 21 m. SW



of Beraun. Pop. 4,623. It has several glass-works and forges.

**MAUTHEN**, a town of Illyria, in the gov. of Laybach, circle and 42 m. W of Villach, on the r. bank of the Gail. It has a blast-furnace, and in the environs are several mines of iron.

**MAUTHHAUSEN**, or **MATHAUSEN**, a market-town of the archduchy of Austria, in the ldgb. and 12 m. ESE of Lintz, and circle of the Muhl, on the l. bank of the Danube. Pop. 1,000. It possesses a castle, and has manufactories of hosiery, and carries on an active trade in salt and grain.

**MAUTII**, or **MAOUTI**, one of the most easterly of the Hervey islands, in the South Pacific, in S lat. 20° 4', and W long. 157° 34'. It is surrounded by coral reefs, which render it unapproachable except at low water. This island was discovered in 1723 by Captain Dibbs.

**MAUVES**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Loire-Inferieure, cant. and 5 m. E of Carquefou, near the r. bank of the Loire. Pop. 1,197.—Also a commune and town in the dep. of the Orne, cant. and 7 m. SSE of Mortagne-sur-Huine, on the r. bank of the Huine. Pop. 1,333.—Also a village in the dep. of the Ardèche, cant. and 2 m. from Tournon, near the r. bank of the Rhone. Pop. 720.

**MAUVESIN**, **MAUVEZIN**, or **MAUVAISIN**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Gers, and arrond. of Lectoure. The cant. comprises 16 com. Pop. in 1831, 10,013; in 1841, 9,885. The town is 21 m. SE of Lectoure, on the l. bank of the Larax. Pop. 2,689. It contains a Calvinist church. It has an oil-mill, and carries on a considerable trade in corn, maize, and cattle. This town is one of considerable antiquity, and was formerly capital of the viscounty of Fizenaguet, in Lower Armagnac.

**MAUVINAGE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and dep. of Silly. Pop. 583.

**MAUZAT**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Puy-de-Dome, cant. and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Riom. Pop. 1,127.

**MAUZE**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Deux-Sevres, and arrond. of Niort. The cant. comprises 8 com. Pop. in 1831, 7,566; in 1841, 7,828. The town is 15 m. SW of Niort, on the r. bank of the Mignon. Pop. in 1841, 1,824. It has manufactories of gold and iron ware, cutlery, and several oil-mills, and carries on a considerable trade in wool, grain, wine, and brandy.—Also a town in the dep. of the Deux-Sevres, cant. and 3 m. E of Thours. Pop. 1,500.

**MAUZENS**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Dordogne, and cant. of Bugue. Pop. 1,157. In the vicinity are extensive forges.

**MAYA**, a river of Western Africa, which passes through the country of Quoja, and falls into the Atlantic near Cape Monte.

**MAVARENNAHAR**, or **MAVARELNAHAR**, a general name for the SE part of Independent Tartary, comprising Bokhara, Khokan, and Budakshan, known also as Transoxiana, or the country beyond the Oxus.

**MA-VEN-JIN**, or **MA-HOUN-NIN**, a town on the E. coast of the Great Lu-chu island, 6 m. SE of Zieuly.

**MAVERA**, a headland of Algiers, to the E of Cape Ferro.

**MAVRO**. See **ACHERON**.

**MAVROMOS**, a town of Turkey in Asia, in Rumelia, in the sanj. and 66 m. SSE of Monastir, and 8 m. WSW of Grevno.

**MAVRO-POTAMO**, a river of Greece, in Livadia, which has its source in Mount Vardisio; passes Lidoriki and Dadi; and throws itself into Lake Topolias, at the village of Skripu, after a course, in a generally E direction, of 60 m. It is the *Cephissus* of the ancients.

**MAVROVO**, a town of Turkey in Europe, in

Rumelia, in the sanjak and 81 m. SSE of Monastir, and 20 m. N of Anasclitzas, on the E bank of Lake Castoria.

**MAVROVUNI**, a village of the Morea, situated on a promontory of the same name,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S of Marethousi, on the W side of the bay of Kolokythia, and overlooking the plain of Passava. It contains about 100 families.

**MAVROYO**, a town of Turkey in Europe, in Albania, in the sanj. and 5 m. S of Valona, and on the gulf of that name.

**MAVRO-ZUMENO**, a river of the Morea, an affluent of the Pidhema, composed of several branches descending from Mount Lyceum, and the hills E of Arkadhia.

**MAWDESLEY**, a township in the p. of Croston, Lancashire, 6 m. WSW of Chorley, on a branch of the Douglas. Area 2,887 acres. Pop. in 1851, 887.

**MAWES** (Str.), a sea-port in the parish of St. Just, Cornwall, 8 m. S by E of Truro, and 3 m. E of Falmouth. It consists of one irregularly built street, facing the sea, with a hill rising abruptly behind it: near the W end of the harbour is a commodious pier. Pop. in 1841, 941, for the most part fishermen and pilots. The borough returned 2 members to parliament until disfranchised by the reform bill.

**MAWGAN-IN-MENEAGE**, a parish of Cornwall,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. ESE of Helston, on the river Helford. Area 5,273 acres. Pop. in 1851, 1,010.

**MAWGAN-IN-PYDER**, a parish in Cornwall,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. NW of St. Columb-Major. Area 5,628 acres. Pop. in 1831, 745; in 1851, 732.

**MAWNAN**, a parish in Cornwall, 4 m. S by W of Falmouth, at the mouth of the river Helford. Area 2,258 acres. Pop. in 1831, 578; in 1851, 539.

**MAXEY**, a parish and village of Northamptonshire, 2 m. S by W of Market-Deeping. Area 2,280 acres. Pop. in 1831, 576; in 1851, 649.

**MAXEY-SUR-VAISE**, a town of France, in the dep. of Mense, cant. and 5 m. S of Vaucouleurs. Pop. 580.

**MAXECO**. See **MACHICO**.

**MAXENT**, a commune and village of France, in the dep. of Ile-et-Vilaine, cant. of Plelan. Pop. 1,774.

**MAXFIELD**, a township of Penobscot co., in the state of Maine, U. S., 112 m. NNW of Augusta. Pop. 185.

**MAXIME** (SAINTE), a commune and small port of France, in the dep. of Var, cant. of Grimaud, on the gulf of Grimaud, opposite Saint-Tropez. Pop. 866.

**MAXIMIN** (SAINT), a canton, commune, and town of France, in the arrond. of Brignoles. The cant. comprises 9 coms. Pop. 10,176.—The town is situated 9 m. WNW of Brignoles, near the source of the Argens. Pop. 3,685. It has wax-bleacheries, tanneries, and cotton and woollen factories; and carries on some trade in wine, brandy, and saffron. Its church is a fine specimen of ecclesiastical architecture.

**MAXINO**, an island off the W coast of the grand-duchy of Finland, in the gulf of Bothnia, in N lat. 63° 14'.

**MAXSAYN**, a village of the duchy of Nassau, 1 m. NNE of Selters. Pop. 626.

**MAXSTOKE**, a parish of Warwickshire, 10 m. E of Birmingham. Area 2,701 acres. Pop. in 1831, 352; in 1851, 350.

**MAXTON**, a parish in the N of Roxburghshire, skirted on its N and W boundaries by the Tweed over a distance of 4 m. Area 4,510 acres, of which about 700 acres are under wood. Pop. in 1831, 462; in 1841, 459, of whom 110 were in the v. of M., and 71 in that of Rutherford; in 1851, 550.

**MAXWELL**, a parish of Van Diemen's Land, in the co. of Somerset, skirted on the N and W by Blackman's river.

**MAXWELL-HEUGH**, a village on the S bank of the Tweed, opposite the E part of the town of Kelso, in Roxburghshire. Pop. about 400.

**MAXWELL (PORT)**, a secure anchorage on the coast of Tierra-del-Fuego, in S lat. 55° 51'. It contains a small island the rocks of which powerfully affect the magnetic needle.

**MAXWELLTOWN**, a burgh-of-barony in the E extremity of Kirkcudbrightshire. The *quoad sacra* parish is about 4½ m. in extreme length, and is bounded on the E by the river Nith, which divides it from the p. of Dumfries. The burgh extends in a stripe along the Nith, directly opposite the town of Dumfries, and nearly equal to it in length. Pop. in 1851, 3,820. In matters of trade and commerce it is identified with Dumfries.

**MAY**, a small but beautiful river in the SE of Perthshire, rising among the Ochil hills, and falling into the Earn a few yards below Forteviot bridge, after a course of between 11 and 12 m. On the banks of this river, near its most romantic scenery, anciently stood the Pictish city of Forteviot, the seat of the court of Pictish kings.

**MAY**, a small island in the mouth of the frith of Forth, 6 m. S of Crail, and about the same distance from Anstruther-Wester. It is about 1 m. long, and ½ m. broad; and consists entirely of greenstone. It bears a lighthouse, rising 240 ft. above sea-level, and is situated in N lat. 56° 12', W long. 2° 36'. From the lighthouse, Fifeness bears, by compass, N by E ½ E, 5 m.; the Bass SW ½ W, 7 m.; and the Bell-rock NE, 15 m. The only inhabitants are the light-keepers and their families.

**MAY (CAPE)**, a promontory forming the S extremity of the state of New Jersey, U. S., on the NE side of Delaware-bay, in N lat. 34° 56', W long. 74° 56'.—Also a promontory on the S coast of Newfoundland, forming the point of a peninsular projection between Fortune and Placentia bays, in N lat. 46° 56', W long. 56°.

**MAY (LE)**, a town of France, in the dep. of Maine-et-Loire, cant. and 7 m. SE of Beaupreau.

**MAY-EN-MULLIEN**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of Seine-et-Marne, cant. of Lizy, 10 m. NE of Meaux. Pop. 904.

**MAY-SUR-ORNE**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Calvados, cant. of Bourguebus. Pop. 536.

**MAY'S LANDING**, a village of Atlantic co., in the state of New Jersey, U. S., 73 m. S of Trenton, on Great-Egg harbour, at the head of Sloop-navigation, and 16 m. from the ocean.

**MAY'S LICK**, a village of Mason co., in Kentucky, U. S., 70 m. ENE of Frankfort.

**MAYA**, a village of Spain, in the prov. and 25 m. NNE of Pampeluna. Pop. 507.—Also a town of Benguela, 18 m. SW of Kakonda.

**MAYACONDA**, a town and fortress of Hindostan, in Mysore, in the district of Chatrakal, 24 m. WNW of Chittledrug.

**MAYALDE**, a village of Spain, in the prov. and 12 m. SSW of Zamora. Pop. 228.

**MAYALS**, a village of Spain, in the prov. and 19 m. SSW of Lerida. Pop. 700.

**MAYASQUER**, a town of Ecuador, 90 m. NNE of Quito.

**MAYBOLE**, a parish occupying the NW corner of the district of Carrick, in Ayrshire; bounded on the W and NW by the frith of Clyde. Area 33½ sq. m. The geological structure of the coast is interesting for its correspondence with the strata of Arran. Nearly 1,000 acres in the parish are planted, about 3,000 are moorland and hill and meadow pasture, and between 16,000 and 17,000 are in tillage. Towers or castles, the ancient residences of brawling feudal chiefs, are numerous in the district, amount-

ing in all to at least 15. Culroy, a clean rural little village, stands 3½ m. N of the town of M., on the low road to Ayr. Dunure, the only other village, is a small sea-port immediately N of Dunure-castle, on the W side of a small bay, and on a projecting point of land, 7 m. S of the town of Ayr. Pop. of the p. in 1801, 3,162; in 1831, 6,287; in 1851, 7,615.—The burgh, an ancient town, and still the reputed capital of Carrick, stands near the S extremity of the p., on the railroad between Glasgow and Port-Patrick, 9 m. from Ayr, and 44 m. from Glasgow. The main street occupies the highest ground within the burgh. A considerable space, deeply sloping between it and the low-lying suburbs, is disposed to a small extent in the ancient cemetery and the relics of the collegiate church; to a greater extent in four or five incompact and irregularly arranged streets; and to a yet greater extent in fields and gardens, which impart to the whole town a rural aspect. M., in everything except its buildings, has been singularly denuded of its ancient character; but, after passing through a season of depopulation and decline, has risen into considerable importance as a busy outpost of the cotton-manufacturers of Glasgow, and a ready receptacle of the immigrant weavers of Ireland; and an impulse, not of trivial value, has been given by the opening of the Glasgow and Ayr railway. Excepting a few coarse woollens and blankets, all the fabrics woven are pulicates, imitation thibets, and mull and jaconet muslins. The pop. of the burgh in 1851 was 3,862.

**MAYDURGAT**, a town of Hindostan, in the district and 64 m. NW of Masulipatam.

**MAYEN**, a town of Prussia, in the reg. and 15 m. W of Coblenz, on the r. bank of the Nette. Pop. 3,815. It has manufactories of woollens and of leather.

**MAYEN**. See JAN-MAYEN.

**MAYEN (TOUR-DE)**, a mountain of the Bernese Alps, in the Swiss cant. of Vaud, 4 m. E of the lake of Geneva. Alt. above sea-level, 1,133 toises = 2,414 yds.

**MAYENCE, MENTZ, or MAINZ**, a town of Hesse-Darmstadt, the cap. of the prov. of Rhein-Hessen, and a fortress of the German confederation, situated on the l. bank of the Rhine, at an alt. of 82 ft. above sea-level, in N lat. 49° 59' 44", E long. 8° 16' 32", 18 m. WSW of Frankfort, and 38 m. SE of Coblenz. It is built partly on the declivity of a hill, in the form of an arc of a circle, of which the Rhine forms the chord; and is surrounded by bastioned walls, and further defended by very strong outworks. A bridge of boats, 1,667 Rhenish ft. in length, protected by a *tete-du-pont*, connects the city with its fortified suburb of Castel, on the opposite bank of the river; and a strongly fortified island in the river adds to its strength as a military position. It is irregularly built, and its streets are narrow; but it has numerous ancient and interesting edifices, the principal of which are the cathedral which has been recently repaired, the ancient electoral palace now the custom-house, the arsenal, the theatre, the episcopal palace, the court-house formerly the palace of the prince of Dahlberg, 6 Roman Catholic churches, several conventual buildings, and a Calvinist church. It is the seat of the central federal convention for the navigation of the Rhine, and the see of a bishop, once the most influential archb. of Germany, now a suffragan of Friburg. Its university was suppressed in 1802, and has not been re-organised; but it has a gymnasium with 16 professors, an episcopal seminary, a museum of natural history and antiquities, and a public library of 100,000 vols., rich in early specimens of printing, for M. was the residence of Gutenberg, and the cradle of the art of printing. Its pop

in 1845 was 31,345, exclusive of a garrison of 8,000 Austrian and Prussian troops. It is the seat of a military tribunal; and its governor and commandant of the citadel are alternately every five years Prussian or Austrian officers. The civil authorities are appointed by the government of Hesse-Darmstadt. M. has been a free port since 1809; and next to Cologne, is the chief mart for Rhenish produce in the W of Germany; and has an active trade in corn, wine, timber, and tobacco. Its manufactures chiefly consist of musical instruments, works in bronze, leather, printing-types, glue, soap, and hats. It has steam-communication 4 or 5 times a-day with Frankfurt; and daily with Coblenz, Bonn, Cologne, and Düsseldorf.—This city is supposed to have been founded in Roman times by Drusus. It was successively destroyed by the Germans, the Vandals, and the Huns, and restored by Charlemagne. In 1225 it stood at the head of the *stadebund* of the Rhenish towns for the protection of their trade and commerce. The Swedes held possession of it during the Thirty-years war. It was bombarded and taken from the French by the Prussians in 1793. In 1797 the French again got possession of it, and made it the cap. of the dep. of Mont-Tonnerre. In 1815 it was reunited to Hesse-Darmstadt; and in 1825 it became a fortress of the German confederation.

**MAYENFELD**, or **MEYENFELD**, a village of Switzerland, in the cant. of the Grisons, 14 m. N of Coire, near the r. bank of the Rhine. Pop. in 1850, 1,232, of whom 85 were Catholics. It is the cap. of the *Zehngerichten-Bund*, or 'League of the Ten Jurisdictions,' and is an ancient and walled town.

**MAYENNE**, a river of France, which has its source in the dep. of the Orne, a little to the S of St-Martin-des-Landes, and flows thence into the dep. to which it gives its name, which it traverses in its entire length; waters the N part of the dep. of the Maine-et-Loire, and joins the Sarthe—which thence takes the name of Maine—a little above Angers, and after a course in a generally S direction of 120 m. Its principal affluents are on the r. the Varenne, Calmont, Ernée, and Oudon, and on the l. the Jouanne and Onette. The most important towns which it waters are Mayenne, Laval, and Château-Gontier. It has been rendered navigable by means of 37 locks to the bridge of Laval. Its chief articles of transit are wine, brandy, vinegar, grain, hemp, lint, timber, faggots, coals, salt, resin, slate, mill-stones, gypsum, and pottery. It is the *Meduena* of the ancients.

**MAYENNE**, a department of France, comprising the W part of the ancient prov. of Maine, and the N extremity of that of Anjou. It lies between 47° 45' and 48° 33' N lat., and between 0° 5' and 1° 20' W long.; and is bounded on the N by the dep. of the Manche and Orne; on the E by that of the Sarthe; on the S by the dep. of the Maine-et-Loire, and on the W by that of the Ille-et-Vilaine. It comprises an area of 514,868 hect. Pop. in 1801, 305,654; in 1821, 343,819; in 1831, 352,586; in 1841, 361,392; and in 1851, 374,566. In its greater extent it consists of undulating plains, but is intersected in the N by the ridge which separates the basin of the British channel from that of the gulf of Gascony; and on the W by the chain which runs between the basins of the Vilaine and Loire, to the latter of which, in nearly its entire extent, this dep. belongs. The Mayenne, by which it is traversed from N to S, and which is its only navigable river, receives within its confines the Jouanne, Calmont, Ernée, and Vicoin. In the NW it is watered by the Deron, which flows into the British channel. In the W it contains the head-streams of the Vilaine. Besides these rivers, it possesses numerous minor streams and ponds.—The soil is sandy, and generally fertile. In 1839

the extent of its arable land was estimated at 489,937 hect.; of which 166,605 was under grain, 7,330 in potatoes, 86 in legumes, 106 in beet-root, 1,812 in hemp, 3,673 in lint, 52 in vineyards, and 6,016 in gardens, 86,522 in meadows, 28,168 in wood, and 8,655 in orchards and nursery-gardens. Its chief agricultural productions are wheat, maslin, rye, barley, oats, sarrasin, hemp, lint, fruit, timber, wine in small quantities, cider, forage, &c. In 1839, the number of live stock in the dep. was estimated at 50,888 horses, 411 mules, 186 asses, 181,753 head of cattle, 140,782 sheep, 48,293 pigs, and 4,700 goats. Poultry is abundant, and bees are reared to a great extent throughout the district.—Its principal mineral productions are iron, anthracite, coal, marble, free-stone, slate, lime-stone, manganese, and granite. It contains several iron-works, of which the principal are those of Port-Briel and Chaillant. At Château-Gontier, Bourgneuf-la-Forêt, Niort, Chantrigne, and Graze, are ferruginous springs. The manufacture of linen and cotton fabrics is general throughout the dep., and forms one of its chief resources. It has also several lime-kilns, marble-works, extensive paper-works, numerous distilleries, and several fine bleacheries. The trade consists chiefly in grain, wine, cider, brandy, fruit, honey and wax, cattle, poultry, wool, linen and cotton fabrics, iron, marble, slate, and timber.—In 1842 it contained 6 schools and 4 colleges. The dep. is divided into 3 arrond., Château-Gontier, Laval, and Mayenne, comprising 27 cant. and 274 com. It forms, with the dep. of the Sarthe, the diocese of the bishop of Mans.—The arrond. of M. comprises an area of 211,745 hect., and contains 11 cant. Pop. in 1831, 162,164; in 1841, 161,785. The cant. comprises 20 com. Pop. in 1831, 33,068; in 1841, 33,151.—The town is situated on both sides, but chiefly on the r. of the Mayenne, 18 m. NNE of Laval; and at an alt. of 318 ft. above sea-level. It is an ill-built town, with narrow and exceedingly steep streets, lined by old and irregularly built edifices. Pop. in 1831, 9,797; in 1841, 9,225. It has a castle, now in ruins, but originally of great strength. It has manufactures of coarse cotton, linen, and leather; and a pretty active trade in wine, iron, and brandy.

**MAYENTHAL**, a valley of Switzerland, in the cant. of Uri, stretching from Mount Susten on the W, to the Reuss on the E, a length of 9 m., and watered by the Mayenbach.

**MAYET**, a canton and town of France, in the dep. of La Sarthe, 18 m. ENE of La Fleche. Pop. of town in 1841, 3,724; of cant. 11,500. It has manufactures of coarse woollen fabrics.

**MAYET-DE-MONTAGNE**, a canton and commune of France, in the dep. of the Allier, and arrond. of La Palisse. The cant. comprises 8 coms. Pop. in 1831, 13,063; in 1841, 14,101. The v. is 13 m. S of La Palisse. Pop. 1,811.

**MAYEURBOIS**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and dep. of Hoves. Pop. 221.

**MAYEURMONT**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and dep. of Ecaussinne-d'Enghien. Pop. 380.

**MAYEUX (SAINT)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Cotes-du-Nord, cant. and 5 m. NW of Corlay. Pop. in 1841, 1,782.

**MAYFIELD**, a parish in Staffordshire, 2½ m. SW by W of Ashburn, situated on the river Dove. The p. includes the chapelry of Butterton, and the townships of M., Woodhouse, and part of Calton. Area 3,760 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,566; in 1851, 1,313.—Also a parish in Sussex, 7 m. S of Tunbridge-Wells. Area 13,604 acres. Pop. in 1851, 3,055.

**MAYFIELD**, a township of Somerset co., in the state of Maine, U. S., 52 m. N of Augusta, 10 m.



from the E side of Kennebec river. Pop. in 1840, 148.—Also a township of Fulton co., in the state of New York, 8 m. NE of Johnstown. It has a mountainous surface, and is drained by branches of Sacandaga river. The soil consists of sand and clayey loam. Pop. 2,615. It has a village containing about 150 inhabitants.—Also a village of Graves co., in the state of Kentucky, 275 m. WSW of Frankfort, on a branch of Mayfield's river. Pop. 150.—Also a township of Cuyahoga co., in the state of Ohio, 161 m. NNE of Columbus, watered by Chagrine river. Pop. 851.—Also a village of Warren co., in the state of Georgia, 35 m. ENE of Milledgeville, on the E side of Ogeechee river.

**MAY-KIANG.** See **MENAM-KONG.**

**MAY-KOUP-MYIT,** or **MAN-LU-HO,** a river which has its source in the SW part of the Chinese prov. of Yun-nan, traverses the prov. of Laos; flows thence into Siam; and joins the Menam, on the l. bank, 230 m. N of Yuthia, and after a generally SE course of 300 m.

**MAYN.** See **MAIN.**

**MAYNAS,** a district of Ecuador, watered by the Huallaga, the Chambira, and Ucayali, and stretching from the r. bank of the Amazon on the N, to the frontiers of Peru on the S. Its chief town, La Laguna, is in S lat. 5° 10', W long. 74° 48'.

**MAYNBERNHEIM,** or **MAINBERNHEIM,** a village of Bavaria, in the circle of Lower Franconia, on the Main. Pop. 245. It has a castle.

**MAYNE,** a parish in the co. and 4½ m. N by W of Kilkenny. Area 1,940 acres. Pop. in 1831, 633; in 1851, 425.—Also a parish 3 m. WNW of Castle-Pollard, in co. Westmeath, containing the village of Coole. Area 7,148 acres, of which 644 acres are in Lough Dereragh. Pop. in 1851, 1,654.

**MAYNOOTH,** a small market-town in the p. of Laraghbryan, co. Kildare, on the N verge of the co., on a small affluent of the Liffey, 11½ m. W by N of Dublin. It is a neat, clean, improving town, respectably edificed, and nearly as remarkable for its freedom from cabins as for the unique character of its chief public building,—the royal college of St. Patrick. At one end of the principal street is a gateway entrance to the ducal demesne of Carton; at the other end is the college, confronting an area which acquires a great accession of picturesqueness from the contiguous ivy-clad tower of the church of Laraghbryan, and from the fine ruins of M. castle. Other existing public structures are a Roman Catholic chapel, a Presentation convent, and some schools. Pop. in 1831, 2,053; in 1851, 1,619. Families employed chiefly in agriculture, 6; in manufactures and trade, 93; dependent chiefly on property and professions, 15; on the directing of labour, 112; on their own manual labour, 221.—M. college, or the royal college of St. Patrick, presents in its principal façade a square central pile, with spacious wings, the whole front extending 400 ft. The public apartments, excepting the library, are in the principal front; the chapel is sufficiently commodious; the chief lecture-room and the refectory are of ample proportions. The library is in one of the side buildings. The exterior of the whole pile is ungraceful and lumpish. A wall and iron-railing separate the college, and about 2 acres of ground in front of it, from the public street; but the grounds behind the building comprise about 50 acres, and are disposed in retired and umbrageous walks. The college was founded in 1795, and in October following, the college was opened for the reception of 50 students. Since that period, Irish candidates for orders in the Roman Catholic church have been educated chiefly at M.; but there are other colleges from which they have also been ordained, at Kilkenny, Carlow, Tuam, Wexford, and Waterford;

and many continue to graduate at continental universities. The number of students at M. is now about 500. The number of free students supplied gratuitously with lodging, commons, and instruction, is 250. They are admissible at the age of 17, and are selected after examination by the bishops of the respective dioc. of Armagh, Cashel, Dublin, and Tuam. Besides the free students, there are pensioners and half-pensioners,—the former paying £21, and the latter £10 10s. annually; but the principal means of support are derived from annual parliamentary grants. During the first 21 years of its existence they averaged £8,000 annually; the sum was subsequently raised to £8,928, the present amount of the grant. In 1800, a board-of-control, under the name of 'visitors,' was appointed by act of parliament, consisting of the lord-chancellor, the chief justices of the king's bench and common pleas, the chief baron of the exchequer, two Roman Catholic archbishops, and the earl of Fingal. These trustees are now incorporated by 8 and 9 Vict. c. 25, with perpetual succession, but the judges are not to act as visitors. The remaining visitors, with 5 persons to be appointed by her majesty, are to hold a visitation yearly, in addition to such periodical visitation as the lord-tenant may direct. The officers charged with the superintendence of the institution are the president, salary £326; the vice-president, salary £200; the senior and two junior deans, whose respective salaries are £122 and £112; the prefect of the Dunboyne establishment, salary £142; and the bursar, £122. They must be natives of Great Britain. The professors rank in the following order: 1. Dogmatic Theology; 2. Moral Theology; 3. Hebrew and Sacred Scripture (divinity professors with salaries of £122 each); 4. Natural Philosophy and Mathematics, salary £112; 5. Logic, Ethics, and Metaphysics, salary £112; 6. Rhetoric, salary £112; 7. Greek and Latin, salary £112; 8. French and English, salary £112; 9. Irish, salary £112. Besides these officers and professors, the trustee and treasurer has a salary of £73 10s.; the physician, £52 10s.; and the apothecary, £200. There are also a cook at £40; butler at £18 18s.; 4 servants at £12 12s.; 12 servants at £9 6s.; and 8 servants at £7 6s., kept for the establishment. Commons for 17 masters at £25 each are allowed. The recent act endows the corporation with the annual sum of £6,000 for the payment of the officers' and professors' salaries. The triennial visitations are, and always have been, mere matters of form. To the president is committed the general inspection of the whole establishment. The power of expelling students for offences against the statutes is lodged in him. He also, on consulting with the vice-president and deans, determines concerning the candidates for holy orders. After 4 years passed in the literary and philosophical classes, the students are transferred to the class of divinity, the most important in the course of education. In this class they remain for 3 years, which completes the full course of instruction given in the college.

**MAYO,** a large maritime county of Connaught; bounded on the W and N by the Atlantic ocean; on the E by the cos. of Sligo and Roscommon; and on the S by the co. of Galway. The outline of the co. is nearly that of a square, or of a broad parallelogram, with a projection of 10 m. in depth from the S side, and another about 17 m. in depth from the E side. The greatest length E and W, from Lough Cara to Achill-head, is 56 m., or, exclusive of Achill island, 46 m.; the greatest breadth N and S, from Downpatrick-head to the most southerly point of contact with Lough Corrib, is 46 m. The area comprises 497,587 acres of arable land, 800,111 of uncultivated land, 8,360 of continuous plantations, 848 of towns, and 56,966 of water: in all, 1,363,882 acres.

*Coasts.* Killalla-bay, on the boundary with co. Sligo, is the only harbour on the N coast frequented by shipping. The coast from Benmore to Benwee, trends in the direction of W by N, measures in a straight line 21 m., and is bold and rocky, but little indented by bay or variegated by headland. The seaward coast of the double peninsula of the Mullet extends 12 m. to the SSW, and is all comparatively low and little indented. The savage-featured island of Achill is separated from the mainland on the E by a very narrow strait, and blends its mountain-summits intimately in the general landscape with those of the peninsula of Coraan-Achill. The great and ramified sea-inlet of Blacksod-bay enters between the Mullet and Achill, and sends off its chief ramification northward between the Mullet and the mainland, to near the head of Broadhaven at Belmullet. The extensive and gorgeous expanse of Clew bay is grandly and powerfully screened with picturesque mountains along both the N and the S, and effectively covered by Clare island across a chief part of the entrance. The coast, from the S side of the entrance of Clew-bay, to the N side of the entrance of Killery-harbour, measures 6 m., and is all inhospitable to shipping; but the large island of Innisburr, and the still larger island of Innisboffin, afford shelter. The romantic sea-inlet of Killery-harbour, besides being sheltered by the mountains which almost press upon one another to enclose it, possesses two boat-harbours.

*Surface.* The basin of Killalla-bay, the valley of the river Moy, and the basin of Lough Conn, form a continuous band of low country, stretching 24 m. S from the NE extremity of the county; and in general 8 or 9 m. broad. A sea-board district of the mean breadth of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m., and extending from within  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. of Killalla-bay to the immediate shores of Blacksod-bay, is a band of mountainous ground overhanging the cliffy coast, and possessing several summit-altitudes of upwards of 1,100 ft. above the level of the sea. The district immediately S of this coast-band is a wild, heathy, broken wilderness of moorland. All the remaining district, N of Clew-bay, and W of the upper part of the basin of Lough Conn, with the exception only of the peninsula of the Mullet, is one great region of mountains, distinguished into the four groups of the Nephin, the Croaghmoyle, the Nephinbeg, and the Achill mountains. The principal summits in this vast region, are Nephin, the monarch height of the whole, immediately overhanging Lough Conn, and attaining an alt. of 2,646 ft. above sea-level; Trustamore, Bullenmore, and Bui-lenbeg, successively due W of Nephin; a height of 1,655 ft. immediately overhanging the Pontoon, a connection between Lough Conn proper and Lough Cullen; Slievemore, 2,217 ft., and Slieve-Croghan, 2,222 ft., in the island of Achill. The double peninsula of the Mullet, or the district lying W of Broadhaven and Blacksod-bay, rises nowhere to an alt. of more than 439 ft. above sea-level, and very extensively consists of low and improvable ground. All the S district of the mainland of the co., is a region of mountains very similar in character to that between Nephin and Achill-head; excepting a band of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 m. in breadth, extending along the shore of Lough Mask. The remaining portions of the co. are strictly champaign, or lie so low that heights of from 200 to 270 ft., are figured on the maps as the chief altitudes of the country. The districts in the E and the N, nearest the counties of Roscommon and Sligo, contain some good land; yet present to a stranger a predominant appearance of flat, cold, waste bogs and moors.

*Waters.* The beautiful and superb Lough-Corrib, the second most extensive lake in Ireland, and pos-

sessing a summer surface-elevation of 28 ft. above sea-level, lies, to the extent of 2,624 acres of its area, within the S boundary-line of this co. Lough Mask, also a lake of no ordinary size and beauty, and possessing a summer surface-elevation of 64 ft. above sea-level, lies, to the extent of more than one-half of its area, or of 13,560 acres, within the S boundary-line, and separates this co. from Galway. Lough Carra, a large, ramified, and handsome lake, approaches within a mile of the W side of Lough Mask, and has a summer surface-elevation of 67 ft. The Castlebar lakes extend NE from within 8 m. of Westport to the immediate vicinity of Castlebar. Lough Beltra has a surface-elevation of 61 ft. above sea-level. Lough Feagh extends  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m., and has a surface-elevation of 44 ft.; and Lough Furnace extends  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S, and has a surface-elevation of 11 ft. Lough Carrowmore has a length of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m., and a summer surface-elevation of 30 ft. Loughs Conn and Cullen, mutually connected by a narrow strait at the Pontoon, and practically forming one lake, extend  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m. in the direction of SE by S, and have a summer surface-elevation of 37 ft. Lough Gara, an intricately outlined lake, of 222 ft. of surface-elevation, situated chiefly in the counties of Sligo and Roscommon, lies, to the extent of 106 acres, within the E boundary-line of Mayo. The remaining lakes are so numerous and so diminutive that we cannot afford to name them.—The Moy is the only navigable river in the county, and even it is navigable by sea-borne vessels only to within a mile of Ballina. It comes in from co. Sligo; makes a large semicircular sweep round from S to N; and then runs N between co. Mayo and co. Sligo, to the head of Killalla-bay. The towns immediately upon its banks are Foxford and Ballina. Its principal tributaries are the Yellow river, the Mullaghnoe, the Sonnagh, the Spaddagh, the Trimogue, the Cloonlee, and the Lough Conn river. The Cloonaghmore, swollen with the tributaries of the Rathroe, the Breaighery, the Duvowen, and the Owenmore, enters the head of the small bay of Rathfran, on the W side of Killalla-bay. The Owenmore, 18 m. in length, traversing a long gap or defile through the centre of the NW. Highlands, and carrying with it the tributaries of the Alderg, the Inagh, the Fed-daunmungeery, the Oweniny, and the Munhin, or superfluent stream from Lough Carrowmore, flows into the head of Tullaghan-bay. The Owengarve, the Boghadoo, the Newport, and the Bunowen or Lewisburgh rivers enter Clew-bay. The Errive enters the head of Killery-harbour. The Ayle flows through Lough Cloon into the head of Lough Mask. The Robe washes the towns of Hollymount and Ballinrobe, and flows into Lough Mask. The Corrib river carries off the superfluency of Lough Mask to Lough Corrib; but, excepting over a brief distance from Cong to the latter lake, it is wholly a subterranean stream. The Black river is also, in part, a subterranean stream; and flows along the SE boundary of the county to Lough Corrib.

*Minerals.* Granite, surmounted by a cap of quartz rock, forms the body of Croaghpatrick. Gneiss, passing into granite and mica-slate, constitutes the Slieve-Gamph mountains, and from one-third to one half of the double peninsula of the Mullet. Quartz rock constitutes part of Nephin mountain, and a considerable part of the lofty sea-board E of Broadhaven. The clay-slate and greywacke members of the transition series of rocks occupy all the southern half of Morisk, and most of the district thence to Lough Mask. Old red sandstone and conglomerate form the exterior skirts of the gneiss district around Foxford, and the whole of the Croagh-Moyle mountains. Excepting two small districts of the coal and millstone-grit formations, all the champaign territory

consists of carboniferous limestone. Iron ore abounds in the districts of the primitive rocks, and was at one time worked near Tullaghan-bay, and in the valley of the Deel. Deposits of manganese have been observed near Westport. Some indications of coal occur in Slieve-Carna. Marble, susceptible of a good polish, has been quarried in several parts of Morisk. The schistose rocks are, in some places, quarried to be used as slate.—The best soils are those of the districts around Ballagh, Ballina, and Hollymount; and both these and the soils of the other districts of the great limestone region, bear a general, and, in some instances, a close resemblance to the limestone soils of other parts of Ireland.

*Agriculture.*] Summer-fallowing is entirely unknown in co. M. Sea-weed is sought after and employed as a manure. Large quantities of it, with the addition of a light coat of dung, are applied to the soil intended for potatoes. Sea-sand, a large proportion of which consists of broken shells, is also employed as a manure, principally to bog ground. The rotation of crops is merely one of potatoes and oats, varied occasionally by the substitution of barley for the latter. In some districts rents as high as £9 and £10 per acre were charged for conacre; and it was not an unusual course for the agent to let so many acres annually of old grass lands on each property at these high rents, in order to keep up an income which, in fact, was a regular system of exhaustion; for, after the conacre crops were taken off, the land was left waste, for nature to recover herself in years of rest. The average charge was—first year—potatoes, £7 per acre; second year, potatoes, £6 per acre; third year, oats, £4 per acre; and, added to this, the old barbarous tenure called *rundale* universally prevailed. The subdivisions of land were so numerous that the owner of 4 or 5 acres generally had them divided into 8 or 10, or often 20, separate portions! Drainage or fencing, or any other improvement, was practically out of the question.—In 1841, there were, within the rural districts of the co., 33,790 farms of from 1 acre to 5 acres, 10,331 of from 5 to 15 acres, 1,265 of from 15 to 30 acres, and 1,135 of upwards of 30 acres. In the same year there were, within the whole co., 22,477 farmers, 84,066 servants and labourers, 39 ploughmen, 161 gardeners, 9 graziers, 1,275 herds, 8 care-takers, 3 land-agents, 98 land-stewards, 12 gamekeepers, and 4 dairy-keepers. The live stock, together with the amount of their respective estimated value, in 1841, were 22,716 horses and mules, £181,728; 10,986 asses, £10,986; 80,858 cattle, £525,577; 141,167 sheep, £155,283; 50,538 pigs, £63,173; and 334,274 poultry, £2,375. Grand total of estimated value of live stock in the rural districts, £945,104. In 1848, there were, on 43,658 holdings, 13,202 horses, 12,912 mules and asses, 76,245 horned cattle, 86,781 sheep, 12,912 pigs, 4,040 goats, and 189,019 poultry. The number of acres under crop in 1848 was 130,623: viz. wheat 9,520, oats 47,400, barley 12,177, pease 175, potatoes 28,144, turnips 10,017, mangel-wurzel and carrots 1,740, flax 1,122, meadow and clover 20,328.—In 1841, there were within the entire co., of continuous woods, 8,360 acres; and of detached trees equivalent to 996 acres.

*Manufactures and trade.*] An official report made in 1836 says, "Eighteen years ago, 500 webs of linen were frequently measured and stamped on a market-day at Westport; the quantity now would not amount to 100." Considerable light is thrown on the state of manufactures and trade in the co., by the statistics of personal industry exhibited in the census of 1841, which returned among other trades, fishermen, 125; millers, 114; brewers, 4; distillers, 4; egg-dealers, 132; butchers, 180; flax-dressers, 107; carders, 494;

spinners of flax, 9,386; spinners of wool, 7,013; spinners of unspecified classes, 14,797; winders and warpers, 73; weavers of linen, 434; weavers of woollen, 192; weaver of ribbon, 1; weavers of unspecified classes, 2,814; bleachers, 16; boot and shoe makers, 1,146; knitters, 2,047; stone-masons, 502; shipwrights, 78; nailers, 154; letter-press printers, 39; soap-boilers, 24; booksellers and stationers, 4. In 1836, the fishing-craft of the co. consisted of 4 half-decked vessels, 12 open sail-boats, and 677 row-boats, and employed 3,768 fishermen. In 1849, the fishing-vessels were 1,046, employing 4,346 men and boys. The salmon-fishing of the Moy lets for £1,500 a-year.

*Communications.*] No one of the railways projected by the Railway commissioners, or of the lines projected by other parties and submitted to these gentlemen, enters or touches co. Mayo. The county-surveyor had under his charge, in 1841, 1,400 m. of road. The highland districts of M. closely resemble those of Galway and Kerry in their former imperviousness to wheeled vehicles, and in the enormous advantages which have accrued from the formation of roads. The principal roads through the campaign districts are the mail-road from Westport, through Castlebar and Hollymount, towards Dublin, and roads mutually connecting all the towns and villages. The upland district from Lough Mask westward to the W sea-board of Morisk, is still unopened by good or even tolerable roads.

*Divisions and towns.*] The co. of Mayo is politically divided into the baronies of Tyrrawley in the NE; Erris in the NW; Burrishoole in the middle of the W; Morisk in the SW; Carra in the S part of the centre; Kilmain in the extreme S; Clannorris in the SE; Costello in the extreme E; and Gallen in the N part of the centre. The principal towns are Castlebar, Ballinrobe, and Westport. The county-jail is at Castlebar, and the bridewells are at Ballina, Ballinrobe, Belmullet, Swineford, and Westport. The assizes are held at Castlebar; quarter-sessions at Castlebar, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Belmullet, Clannorris, Swineford, and Westport. The district lunatic asylum, to which M. is entitled to send 73 patients, is at Ballinasloe; the county infirmary is at Castlebar. The annual amount of property valued for the poor-rate is £295,398.—Two members from the co. at large and two from the borough of Castlebar, were sent to the Irish parliament; but only the former two are sent to the imperial parliament. Constituency in 1842, 1,840; in 1849, 1,118.

*Population.*] Pop. in 1792, 140,000; in 1813, 237,371; in 1821, 293,112; in 1831, 366,328; in 1841, 388,887; in 1851, only 274,716, being a decrease of 29 per cent. in 10 years. Houses in 1792, 27,970; in 1813, 43,702; in 1821, 53,051; in 1831, 62,367; in 1841, 68,425; in 1851, 49,191. The following statistics are all of 1841. Families residing in first-class houses, 486; in second-class houses, 4,851; in third-class houses, 23,859; in fourth-class houses, 41,714. Families employed chiefly in agriculture, 56,605; in manufactures and trade, 10,029; in other pursuits, 4,276. Families dependent chiefly on property and professions, 1,044; on the directing of labour, 11,858; on their own manual labour, 56,377; on means not specified, 1,631. Males at and above 5 years of age who could read and write, 30,726; who could read but not write, 16,108; who could neither read nor write, 120,119. Females at and above 5 years of age who could read and write, 10,489; who could read but not write, 13,033; who could neither read nor write, 144,786. Males above 4 years of age attending primary schools, 5,916; attending superior schools, 500. Females above 4 years of age attending primary schools, 3,675; at-



tending superior schools, 212. Clergymen of the Established church, 28; Methodist ministers, 6; Presbyterian ministers, 3; Roman Catholic clergymen, 99; ministers of religion whose denominational connection is not specified, 19. In 1848 there were 139 national schools in operation, attended by 20,099 children.

*History.* M. was included in the grant which Henry II. made in 1180 to William Fitz-Adelm de Burgho; and it was so soon colonized by the English, that in the reign of Henry III. a strenuous but vain effort was made to dispossess them; but soon after 1333, some of the younger branches of the Burke family seized the cos. of M. and Galway, appropriated these territories to their own use, renounced English names, laws, and alliances, identified themselves and their followers with the native Irish, and successfully established a sort of rude political independence. In 1575, the reigning MacWilliam made his submission to the English government. But though M. was now a second time made a co., and placed under the laws of England, the Burkes first repined, next complained, and next rebelled; and along with the O'Donnells, the Joyces, and other clans, they rose in arms to reassert their independence, and speedily plunged their country in the horrors of general tumult and anarchy. In July 1586, however, Sir Richard Bingham overwhelmed the rebel army in a pitched battle at Ardarae. The rebellion of 1641 was actively promoted by most of the old families of the co., and occasioned an enormous amount of forfeitures; and the wars of the Revolution drew the Burkes, the Brownes, the Dillons, and other families into the Jacobite vortex, and led to the forfeiture of 19,294 acres of land. In 1798, the small invading French force under General Humbert landed at one of the lower and westward ramifications of Killalla bay, took possession of the towns of Killalla, Ballina, and Foxford, accumulated around them a large force of malcontent Irish, defeated a British army of 6,000 under General Lake at Castlebar, spread general alarm and confusion through not only M. but Connaught, but were speedily obliged to make a complete and final surrender at Ballinacree in co. Leitrim.

MAYO, a parish 3 m. S by E of Ballagh, in co. Mayo. Area 11,848 acres. Pop. in 1831, 3,121; in 1851, 2,379.—Also a chapelry in the p. of Killeban, Queen's co.

MAYO, or MATO, one of the Cape Verd islands, in the Atlantic, to the E of the island of Sant Iago, and SSW of Boavista. It is about 21 m. in circumf., and is generally flat. The coast is rocky, and the soil, from want of water, sterile. Its principal production is salt, which is procured from a natural lagoon. During the dry season, from November to May, its produce is immense, and it forms an extensive article of trade with America. The aborigines are Negroes, but since their subjugation by the Portuguese, they have adopted the language and manners of that people. Its chief town and port is Pina, on the SW coast, in N lat. 15° 7', W long. 23° 17'.

MAYO, a river of Mexico, in the state of Sonora. It has its source 45 m. E of Camoa; runs in a generally W direction; and throws itself into the gulf of California, near Guitavis, 72 m. SE of the mouth of the Hiaqui, and after a course of about 150 m.

MAYO. See MAYU.

MAYOLA, a rivulet of co. Londonderry, rising among the lofty mountains at the SW extremity of Loughinsholin, and running 16 m. NE, E, and SE, to Lough Neagh, at a point 2 m. above Toome-bridge.

MAYOMBA, a territory, town, and river in the NW part of Lower Guinea. The territory lies between that of Sette on the N, the state of Loango on the S, and the Atlantic on the W, and is watered by the river of the same name. The inhabitants are gentle and intelligent, work several copper-mines, and have a considerable trade in ivory and gum. They formerly carried on an extensive traffic in slaves. The chief of M. recognises the sovereignty of the king of Loango. The town, which is also named Yomba, is situated on the Atlantic, at the mouth of the Mayomba, 120 m. N of Loango. It has a good harbour.

MAYOR (ISLA), an island of Spain, in Andalusia, in the prov. of Seville, formed by the Guadalquivir, 12 m. above the entrance of that river into the At-

lantic. It is 30 m. in length from N to S, and 12 m. across its widest part. It abounds with fruit-trees. See also MAIER.

MAYORGA, a town of Spain, in Leon, in the prov. and 45 m. NW of Valladolid, and partido of Villalon, on the Cea. Pop. 1,790. It has 6 parish-churches, 3 convents, an hospital, and a custom-house. It possesses an active trade, being the entrepot for the produce of Asturias, and for the wines of Medina and Rueda. Cattle are extensively reared in the environs.—Also a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Estremadura, comarca and 5 m. N of Alcobaca, and 20 m. WSW of Leiria, on a height, in a fertile tract, near the Atlantic. It has an almshouse, and a handsome square adorned with fountains, and containing well-built dwelling-houses.

MAYOTTE, or MAYOTTA, the extreme SE island of the Comores archipelago, in the N part of the Mozambique channel, in 12° 54' S lat. Until 1840 it was little known to Europeans, being considered inaccessible, on account of the coral reefs which surround it; but in that year the discovery was made that the rocky girdle was not continuous, and that the largest vessels could penetrate by various channels into the zone of sea comprised between the island and the reef. The island is almost entirely volcanic. The whole of the interior is occupied by mountains covered with peaks and hillocks, the highest of which attain an elevation of from 1,800 to 2,300 ft. A blooming vegetation has covered all this lava, but large trees are rare. A half-ruined forest, and some high trees in the bays, are all the resources offered by the island either in timber for building or for the purposes of manufacture; the white talamaka, the ebony, and the mat tree, are the principal. Cocoa-nut thicket shades the sides of the hills almost everywhere, particularly in the vicinity of the villages; and bananas, papaw-trees, guava-trees, and plantains, clothe the banks of the streams. Guinea-fowls, wild pigeons, hawks, crows, fly-catchers, hâve-de-vets, humming-birds, and bats, are numerous. The land capable of cultivation cannot be reasonably estimated at more than 8,000 hectares, or about one-fourth of the superficial extent of the island. Numerous rivulets run to the bottoms of the hollow valleys by which it is furrowed. The interior is little known. It has about 5,000 inhabitants, Sakalavas, Arabs, and Autolantes, almost all Mahomedans, and the majority of whom are slaves. The currents of lava, which have radiated from the centre to the circumf. of the island, form numerous buttresses extending into the sea, amongst which are found a tolerably large number of bays, creeks, and well-sheltered anchorages. On the NE a tongue of land, scarcely raised 20 ft. above the level of the sea, is detached from the island towards the SE, and forms a small peninsula, called the point of Choa. Immediately in front of this is the islet of Pamanzi, which projects towards the NW, a small peninsula of sand on which the rock of Zaoudzi rears its head. A channel of about 1,300 yds. in breadth separates these two advanced points, on each of which a village is built; one, the village of Choa, is peopled with Sakalavas, the other is inhabited by Arabs. The peninsula of Zaoudzi forms two harbours; the first, situated on the N side, is ordinarily called the bay of Pamanzi, and would be a regular port if better sheltered from the NE winds which blow during winter. The other, on the S, is equally open to the SE monsoon, which regularly prevails here during six months of the year. The islet of Pamanzi is not insalubrious like M., but it is only a rock covered with a friable vegetating soil: water is wanting, and deep wells must be sunk to procure any. Its area does not exceed 1,500 hectares. The soil is indented by hills,

small mountains, and elevated hillocks. At the summit of one mountain is found a lake of sulphurous water, 45 ft. deep, which has no issue, and is not fed by any course of water. The French took possession of M. on 13th June 1843, and have formed a fort on the rock. The rock of Zaoudzi or N'zaoudzi is joined, as before-mentioned, to the islet of Pamanzi by a small isthmus of sand, covered and uncovered by the flux and reflux of the tide. The military establishment was the site of an Arab village,—a mass of huts made of cocoa-nut leaves, surrounded by a bad wall of dry stones. This rock is the key of the island, and commands the two ports. Some of the transported insurgents of June 1851 are now employed on works here, it being intended to make the island of M. the military depot of France in these seas, instead of Nosibe, which has been found to be a hot-bed of disease.

**MAYPO**, a river of Chili, which has its source in the district of Mapocha, on the W side of the Andes; runs first W; receives the Mapocha on the r.; separates the district of Melpilla from that of Rancagua; and throws itself into the Pacific in S lat. 33° 43', 60 m. WSW of Santiago, and after a course of about 150 m. Its waters are impregnated with salt, and abound with trout. It is crossed by a suspension bridge 250 ft. in length, the impetuosity of its current having hitherto rendered the construction of any other species of bridge impracticable. In the plains through which this river passes, near Santiago, a signal victory was obtained by the republican army under San Martin, which terminated the Spanish authority in Chili.

**MAYPURES**, a tribe of Indians, in New Granada, who inhabit the upper streams of the Rio-Negro.

**MAYPURES**, or **SAN-JOSE-DE-MAYPURES**, a village of New Granada, 240 m. SE of Varinhas, in Venezuela, 400 m. E. of Santa-Fe-de-Bogota, on the l. bank of the Orinoco, above the cataracts.

**MAY-PYAYN-MYIT**, a river of Laos, which joins the Menam about 20 m. S of Chang-mai.

**MAYRAS**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Ardeche, cant. and 3 m. E. of Thueys, and 11 m. N of Argentiere. Pop. 2,100. It has manufactories of various kinds of woollen fabrics. Coal is wrought in the environs.

**MAYRES**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Ardeche, cant. and 6 m. WSW of Thueys, on the r. bank of the Ardeche. Pop. 2,558. It has manufactories of serge and other woollen fabrics, and at an adjacent village a large steam saw-mill.—Also a village of Moravia, in the circle and 32 m. SSE of Ig-lau, and 12 m. WSW of Lamnitz. It has a cotton-spinning mill.

**MAYSI**, a headland at the E extremity of Cuba, in N lat. 20° 17', W long. 74° 10'.

**MAYSVILLE**, a village of Buckingham co., in the state of Virginia, U. S., 79 m. W of Richmond, on the SE side of Slate river. Pop. in 1840, 300.—Also a township of Morgan co., in the state of Ohio. Pop. 1,159.—Also a town of Mason co., in the state of Kentucky, 81 m. NE by E of Frankfort, in a narrow tract between the S bank of the Ohio and a range of hills. Pop. 2,741. It has a good harbour for small vessels.—Also a village of Clay co., in the state of Illinois, 122 m. SE of Springfield, on the border of Twelve-Mile prairie, near the Little Wabash river, consisting in 1840 of 25 dwellings.

**MAYTOWN**, a village of Donegal township, Lancaster co., in the state of Pennsylvania, U. S., 30 m. SE by E of Harrisburg, 3 m. NE of Susquehanna river. It consisted in 1840 of about 30 dwellings.

**MAYTUNAS**, a tribe of Indians, who inhabit the banks of the Jabari or Hyabari, in the prov. of Para, Brazil.

**MAYVILLE**, a village of Chautauque township,

in the state of New York, U. S., 344 m. W by S of Albany, at the N extremity of Chautauque lake. Pop. in 1840, 500.

**MAZAFRAN**, or **OUJER**, a river of Algeria, which has its source in Mount Zickar, in the prov. of Mascara; runs 42 m. under the name of Merega; thence it takes the name of Oudjer, and at the confluence of the Chiffa assumes that of Mazafra; divides the prov. of Mascara and Titeri; and discharges itself into the Mediterranean a little to the E of Coleah, 18 m. SW of Algiers, and after a course in a generally NE direction of 105 m. Its waters are yellowish in colour.

**MAZAGA**, or **BLACK EARTH**, a district on the SE confines of Nubia and of Abyssinia.

**MAZAGAN**, a town of Morocco, in the prov. and 150 m. NW of Morocco, and 60 m. SW of Tamesna, on the Atlantic, a little to the NE of Cape Blanco. It is a well-built town, and is surrounded by a wall 12 ft. thick with bastions. It has a port capable of receiving small vessels; those of large size are obliged to anchor at the distance of about 6 m. The locality is salubrious, and has springs of excellent water; but since the prohibition of trade in grain the town has sunk into decay. It was founded in 1506 by the Portuguese; and was retained in their possession until 1762. It was named by them Castillo-Reale.

**MAZAGAO**, a small town of Brazil, in the prov. of Para, on the r. bank of the Mutuaca, 15 m. above the confluence of that river with the Amazonas. The surrounding district produces rice, cotton, and other important articles of trade in great abundance.

**MAZAGONG**, or **MAHESA-GRAMA**, a village of Hindostan, in the presidency and island of Bombay, at the head of the harbour of Bombay. It has two Roman Catholic churches, and is inhabited chiefly by Portuguese.

**MAZAGRAN**, a village of Algeria, in the prov. of Oran, 3 m. SW of Mostagenem, and 1½ m. from the sea. It has a pop. of 170.

**MAZA-KIANG**, a river of Birmah, which rises under the 25th parallel, to the SE of Mogang, and flows first SW, and then SE to the Irawaddy, which it joins on the r. bank, 120 m. above Amerapura, after a course of 150 m.

**MAZALEM**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 72 m. SE of Saragossa, on the l. bank of the Matarana. Pop. 1,000. The environs are fertile in oil, wine, and salt.

**MAZALQUIVIR**. See **MARSALQUIVIR**.

**MAZALTENANGO**, or **SAN-BARTOLOMEO-MAZALTENANGO**, a town of Guatemala, in the district of Suchiltepec, 120 m. NW of Guatemala. Pop. 2,150. It has a considerable trade in cotton and cacao.

**MAZAMBBA**, or **MAZAVAMBA**, a town of South-Western Africa, in the Maravi territory, 300 m. NW of Sena, and on the road which crosses the continent.

**MAZAMET**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Tarn, and arrond. of Castres. The cant. comprises 9 com. Pop. in 1831, 16,854; in 1841, 18,737.—The town is 12 m. SE of Castres, on the l. bank of the Arnette, near the confluence of the Thori, at an alt. of 708 ft. above sea-level. Pop. in 1841, 8,584. It has a Calvinist consistorial church; and possesses numerous manufactories of woollen fabrics, several dye-works, and 4 paper-mills. Cattle are extensively reared in the environs.

**MAZAN**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Vaucluse, cant. and 5 m. E of Carpentras. Pop. in 1841, 4,004. The environs produce wine, olives, saffron, and cherries.—Also a commune and town in the dep. of the Ardeche, cant. and 6 m. NW of Montpezat. Pop. 1,510.

**MAZANDERAN**, a province of Persia, stretch-

ing along the S. shore of the Caspian, having the prov. of Ghilan on the W, and of Khorassan on the E; while to the S it is separated from Irak-Ajemi by the lofty range of Elburz. Holmes says MAUZUNDE-ROON both gives the general pronunciation of the name and follows the etymology, from the old Persian word *mauz* 'a mountain,' and *underoon* or *ande-roon* 'the inside,' meaning 'the country within the mountains.' Its superficies is estimated at 8,126 square miles. Its surface is mountainous, abounding in forests of oak, and in some quarters full of swamps; but the valleys are fertile, and produce fine rice. A considerable number of rivers rise in the mountains of Elburz, and fall into the Caspian; but none have any very long course. The soil is too moist for the production of good wheat. Sugar is cultivated to some extent; and silk is produced, though not nearly equal to that of Ghilan. Elms, cedars, cypress, and box-trees abound both in the plains along the Caspian, and on the slopes of Elburz. The principal fruits are the orange, lemon, and citron; apples, pomegranates, quinces, pears, peaches, walnuts, grapes, and melons, are also largely produced. Iron and native steel are met with. The tiger, panther, bear, wolf, goat, and wild pig, are numerous in the forests. The domestic cattle are of the humped species.—This province may be divided into two distinct climates,—the mountainous and cold districts of the interior,—and the warm and fertile plains along the Caspian. Winter and spring are healthy; but the summer and autumn heats cause exhalations from the fens and marshes, which render the air insalubrious. Agues and dropsies are prevailing disorders; and the natives inhabiting the coasts and the lower districts in general have a sallow and bloated appearance, indicative of sickness. Heavy rains fall in Oct., Nov., and Dec. Snow falls, but never lies long. The pop. of this prov. has been roughly estimated at 150,000. The natives of this prov. have been reckoned the most warlike in Persia. They defended their mountainous retreats with such courage and ability as to baffle for a time all the efforts of Timur to subdue them. They furnish to government a force of about 12,000 foot-soldiers, of whom 2,000 are always at Tehran. The language of the peasantry is the Persian, but many also speak a dialect of the Turkish. The commerce is considerable, chiefly with Russia, to which it exports rice, silks, and cotton. Rice is also sent from this prov. to Tehran, Ghilan, Casbin, and Tabriz. Some sugar is exported to Ghilan, and also to Russia. The cotton is used in native manufactures. Some of the roads are bad; there is an admirable causeway, extending about 300 m., from Kisliar to Astrabad; but it is hardly practicable for heavy-wheeled carriages.—Besides the districts of Tennacarbon, Kellauristank, and Kujur, M. is divided into 6 *mahalehs* or districts. The capital is Sari, the ancient *Zadracarta*; but Balfrush is of larger extent. Ferabad or Farahabad and Amol are also considerable towns. Most of the smaller towns and villages are open, well-built, and pleasantly situated.—*Fraser*.—*Kinnaird*.—*Todd*.—*Holmes*.

**MAZAOUNAH**, a town of Algeria, in the prov. of Mascara, 27 m. SE of Mostagan, on the Warisa, an affluent of the Shellif. It is enclosed by a mud wall, and is noted for its manufactories of woollen fabrics.

**MAZAPIL**, a village of Mexico, in the state and 108 m. N of Zacatecas. It is a mining locality, and contains about 40 white families. Indians form the rest of the pop.

**MAZARGUES**, a hamlet of France, in the dep. of the Bouches-du-Rhône, cant. and com. and 3 m. SE of Marseilles. Pop. 1,708. It contains many

handsome villas. M. is supposed by some to derive its name from Marii-ager (field of Marius); by others from Mas-aggeris (way-house). The coast Roman way from Marseilles to Cithariste passes near it.

**MAZARIEGOS**, a town of Spain, in Leon, in the prov. and 11 m. WNW of Palencia, and partido of Frechilla, in a level tract surrounded by water. Pop. 700. It has a well-endowed hospital.

**MAZARRON**. See **ALMAZARRON**.

**MAZARULLEQUE**, a village of Spain, in the prov. and 45 m. WNW of Cuenca. Pop. 550.

**MAZATLAN**, a port of Mexico, at the S extremity of the gulf of California, in N. lat. 23° 10', W long. 106° 21'; built upon a river of the same name, and upon a sandy plain, broken by small lagunes, and sheltered on the N by a high hill. The houses are constructed of adobes, and one story in height. Although destitute of a good harbour, this port is now the most important possessed by Mexico in the Pacific, owing to its facility of communication with the N provinces and the mining districts: though, at the moment of writing this [1852], it has been closed by order of the feeble government of Mexico, in consequence of the disorders and revolutionary movements which are rife here as throughout the entire country. Its chief exports are bullion, logwood, and agricultural produce. The pop. fluctuates with the season. At the close of the rains, in October, the place becomes very unhealthy, and all who can, migrate to the mountains in the interior.—There are several small settlements of this name in Mexico, most of which are inconsiderable, consisting only of a few families of Indians.

**MAZE**, a town of France, in the dep. of Maine-et-Loire, 13 m. E of Angers. Pop. 3,500.

**MAZEIK**. See **MASEYCK**.

**MAZEIRA**, a considerable island near the E coast of Arabia, extending nearly NNE and SSW, between 20° 18' and 20° 49' N lat. [Smith]; and in about 59° 40' E long. It is about 60 m. long, and 8 m. broad. There is a passage between it and the main for large vessels.—It has a village on the E shore, but is seldom visited by Europeans.

**MAZERES-EN-FOIX**, a town of France, in the dep. of Ariege, on the l. bank of the river Lers, 13 m. NNW of Mirepoix. Pop. 3,000.

**MAZIERES**, a town of France, in the dep. of Deux-Sevres, 15 m. NNE of Niort. Pop. 600.—Also a town in the dep. of Correze, cant. and 6 m. W of Neuvic. Pop. 1,200.—Also a village in the dep. of Indre-et-Loire, cant. and 4 m. N of Langeais. Pop. 600.

**MAZINGEN**, a village of Switzerland, in the cant. of Thurgau, on the r. bank of the Murg, 4 m. SE of Frauenfeld. Pop. 650.

**MAZO**, a town on the E. coast of Palma, in the Canary group. Pop. 4,180.

**MAZOIRE**, a village of France, in the dep. of Puy-de-Dôme, cant. and 7 m. WSW of Ardes. Pop. 1,247.

**MAZORBO**, a town of Austrian Italy, situated on an island of the same name, in the lagunes and 6 m. NE of Venice. Pop. 300.

**MAZORNO**, a village of Austrian Italy, situated on the Po, 22 m. S of Venice.

**MAZUECOS**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 32 m. WNW of Madrid, near the Valdegonate. Pop. 560.

**MAZULA**, a small island in the Atlantic, near the W coast of Africa, in S lat. 8° 5'.—Also a port of Congo, 50 m. SSW of Bombi.

**MAZULAR**. See **MANSULAR**.

**MAZURES (LA)**, a village of France, in the dep. of Ardennes, cant. and 4 m. N of Renwez. Pop. 1,171. It has iron-works.



**MAZY**, a village of Belgium, in the prov. and 9 m. WNW of Namur. Pop. 460.

**MAZZARA**, a town on the SW coast of Sicily, in the Val-di-Mazzara, 30 m. S of Trapani, on the l. bank and at the embouchure of the Salerni, in N lat. 37° 40', E long. 12° 34'. It is an ill-built place; but is remarkable for the number of its churches and convents. It has also an hospital, a public school, a bishop's palace, and a large caucatore or corn-warehouse. Pop. 8,400. It exports wine, brandy, oil, and soda. The harbour is large, but the roadstead is exposed.

**MAZZARA (VAL-DE)**, one of the ancient and natural divisions of Sicily, comprising the W and most narrow part, and bounded on the E by the two other divisions of Sicily, the Val-di-Noto, and the Val-di-Demona. It embraces the modern administrative divisions of Trapani and Girgenti, with part of Palermo and of Caltanissetta. Its territorial extent is computed at three-eighths of the whole island, or about 4,700 sq. m. Though intersected by several chains of mountains, it is on the whole the least rugged and most fertile of the three divisions. Its chief production is corn; after which come flax, hemp, and fruit. Its fisheries, particularly of tannies and sardines, are very extensive. The capital of the district, as well as of the whole island, is Palermo.

**MAZZARINO**, an inland town of Sicily, in the Val-di-Noto, situated on a small river, 18 m. SE of Caltanissetta, near the great road from Girgenti to Catania. Pop. of town and cant. 11,600.

**MBOTETEL**. See **MONDEGO**.

**MBUTUL**, a river of Monte Video, which enters the Uruguay, on the l. bank, in S lat. 28° 50', after a W course of 70 m.

**MCHAGA**, a river of Russia, which rises in the gov. of Petersburg, 4 m. N of Podklina; runs NE, then SW; and falls into the Chelon, on the l. bank, 9 m. above its influx into Lake Ilmen.

**MEABAN**, a small island of France, in the dep. of Morbihan, 12 m. SW of Vannes. It is surrounded with a number of reefs.

**MEACHEGONG**, a town in the Birman empire, on the r. bank of the Irawaddi, 30 m. N of Prome.

**MEACO**, or **MIACO**, a great city on the S coast of the island of Nipon, in Japan, formerly the metropolis of the empire, and still the ecclesiastical capital, and the residence of the *mikado* or spiritual sovereign. It is situated in a spacious plain enclosed by a circuit of high mountains, and almost entirely formed into gardens interspersed with temples, monasteries, and mausoleums, and watered by numerous rivulets. The city itself is watered by three rivers, which unite their streams in its centre. In its greatest prosperity it is said to have been 20 m. in length, and 9 m. in breadth. The streets are narrow, and the houses of the ordinary inhabitants are slightly constructed; but some of the temples are of extraordinary magnificence, and the imperial palace forms a city by itself. The inhabitants, according to Kämpfer, amounted to 477,000, exclusive of those attached to the court, and the monks and nuns, whose numbers amounted to 52,000. A number of the finer manufactures, particularly japan-work, painting, carving, &c., are carried on here in greater perfection than in any other part of the empire.

**MEAD**, a county in the N part of Kentucky, U. S., on the Ohio. Area 360 sq. m. Pop. 5,780 in 1841; 7,384 in 1851. Its cap. is Brandenburg.—Also a township in Crawford co., in Pennsylvania. Pop. 1,697.—Also a township in Belmont co., in Ohio. Pop. 1,496.

**MEADAS**, a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Alentejo, comarca and 24 m. N of Portalegre, on the l. bank of the Sever.

**MEADOW RIVER**, a river of North America, which runs SW and falls into the Mississippi, 30 m. from its source. It is navigable for canoes 100 m.—Also a river of Maine, U. S., which runs into Casco bay.—Also a river which runs into Lake Huron, in N lat. 45° 38'.

**MEADVILLE**, the capital of Crawford co., Pennsylvania, U. S., situated on the E side of French creek, 234 m. NW by W of Harrisburg. Pop. 1,319. It has some trade and manufactures; and is the seat of the state-arsenal, and of Alleghany college, founded in 1815.—Also the cap. of Franklin co., in Mississippi.

**MEAHGUNGGE**, or **MIAGUNGGE**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Oude, 24 m. SW of Lucknow. It is surrounded by a double wall, and carries on a considerable trade in grain.

**MEALFOURM'PHONIE**, **MEALFOURVONIE**, or **MEALFUARVONIE**, [*i. e.* 'the Lump of the Cold moor,'] a mountain of Scotland, in Inverness-shire, at the head of Glenurquhart and Glenmoriston, which rises to the height of 3,200 ft. above the level of the sea. It has a dome-shaped summit.

**MEALY MOUNTAINS**, a range on the E coast of Labrador, between Cape Charles and Sandwich bay.

**MEAME**, a river of North America, which runs into Lake Erie, in N lat. 42° 12'.

**MEANA**, a village of the island of Sardinia, 24 m. E of Oristano. Pop. 1,250.

**MEANDER**, a river of Van Diemen's Land, rising in Westmoreland co., and flowing into the S. Esk.

**MEANDER**. See **MENDERE**.

**MEANE**, a village of France, in the dep. of La Creuse, cant. and 10 m. NW of Bonnat. Pop. 1,400.

**MEANGIS ISLES**, a cluster of small islands in the Eastern seas, 90 m. SE of Mindanao. The inhabitants of Nanusa, one of the largest, are chiefly employed in boat-building.

**MEANI**, a town of Sind, in the district of Tatta, 6 m. N of Hyderabad, in N lat. 25° 26', on the Fulailee branch of the Indus, which is here a mile broad, and generally 18 ft. deep. On the 17th Feb. 1843, an Anglo-Indian force of 2,800 men, under Sir C. Napier, here defeated a Beluchi force of 22,000 men.—Also a town of Guzerat, in N lat. 21° 50'.—Also a town of the Punjab, on the r. bank of the Ravi, here 513 yds. wide when at its fullest, in N lat. 31° 49'.

**MEANZA**, a town of the Papal states, in the deleg. and 12 m. SW of Frosinone.

**MEAO**, one of the small Molucca islands, in N lat. 1° 12'.

**MEARE**, a parish of Somersetshire, 2 m. WNW of Glastonbury. Area 8,269 acres. Pop. 1,605.

**MEARIM**, or **MARI**, a river of Brazil, in the prov. of Maranhão, which flows into the bay of San Marcos, in front of the island of Maranhão.

**MEARNS**, a parish of Renfrewshire, 3 m. S of Paisley. Pop. 3,704.

**MEARNS**. See **KINCARDINESHIRE**.

**MEARS (ASHLEY)**, a parish of Northamptonshire, 4 m. W of Willingborough. Area 1,890 acres. Pop. 489.

**MEASHAM**, a parish of Derbyshire, 3½ m. SSW of Ashby-de-la-Zouche. Area 1,490 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,535; in 1851, 1,663.

**MEATH**, an ancient extensive territory of Ireland, first a kingdom, and finally a lordship or earldom, partly within the present prov. of Ulster, but chiefly identical with most of the N part of the modern prov. of Leinster. It seems to have comprehended the present cos. of Meath, Westmeath, and Longford, the greater part of the present King's co., and small parts of the present cos. of Cavan and Kildare; and to have been somewhat more extensive

than the territory of the modern *dio. of Meath*. It was originally or uncorruptedly called *Midhe* or *Midhanagh*, and in Latin *Midia*. Near the close of the reign of Henry VIII., M. was divided into the two cos. of M. and Westmeath; but the former of these included the portion of the present co. of Cavan which had belonged to the ancient M., and the latter included the present co. of Longford, and a large part of the present King's co. The final arrangement, or that which now exists, was made in the reign of Elizabeth.

MEATH, a large county of the Irish prov. of Leinster; bounded on the N by the prov. of Ulster and the co. of Louth; on the E by the Irish sea and co. Dublin; on the S by co. Kildare; on the SW by King's co.; and on the W by Westmeath. The greatest length of the co. from Lough-Sheelin to the Irish sea is 36½ m.; the greatest breadth in the opposite direction 32 m. The area comprehends 547,391 acres of arable land, 16,033 of uncultivated land, 12,767 of continuous plantations, 464 of towns, and 3,244 of water; in all, 579,899 acres.

*Surface.*] The brief extent of coast has nearly a quite straight sea-line, and consists of a low beach skirted by sand-banks and low hills. The whole co. may in a general view be regarded as a chief and very characteristic part of the great central plain of Ireland; all of an aggregately champaign character; hilly over a small district in the W; and variegated by hills and swells in many districts of the N and the interior, but nowhere mountainous or rugged. The principal hills, together with the alts. of their summits above sea-level, are Mount Iver, 563 ft., on the N border; Red mountain, 402 ft., on the r. bank of the Boyne, between Slane and Drogheda; Corrick-leck, 599 ft., immediately N of Nobber; Scriboge, 618 ft., 3 m. W of Nobber; and Slieve-Nacalliagh, 904 ft., between Crossakeel and Oldcastle.

*Waters.*] The river Boyne begins to touch the co. not far below its origin in co. Kildare, and traverses some of the most fertile and best improved districts. It washes the towns of Trim, Navan, and Slane, and is navigable from the sea to Navan. The Yellow river has its embouchure on the l. bank of the Boyne; the Upper Blackwater on the r. bank, 2 m. above Scariff-bridge. The Deel flows E to the l. side of the Boyne, near the mouth of the Blackwater. The Stonyford joins the Boyne at Scariff-bridge; the Lower Blackwater at the town of Navan; the Moyalty 2 m. below Kells.—A portion of Lough-Sheelin, amounting to 1,161 acres, lies within the NW wing of the co. All the other lakes are small.

*Climate.*] M. has a lower temp. than the W cos. of Ireland, and less rain than the upland cos. of even the N and the S. N and NE winds prevail from the 1st of March till near the end of May; S and SW winds during another third of the year.

*Minerals and soils.*] Excepting a district of about 50 or 55 sq. m. in the extreme N, nearly all the co. N of the latitude of Kells and the confluence of the Boyne and Mattock, and also a district of 7 m. by 4 m. on the coast between the Nanny water and the boundary with co. Dublin, consist of transition rocks, principally greywacke slate, fissile clay slate, quartzose slate, and chlorite slate. Two or three nodules occur of protruded crystalline greenstone: all the remainder consists of carboniferous limestone, and forms a conspicuous part of the grand floetz limestone field of Ireland.—The soils vary from deep rich loam to the lightest sandy soil; but those which prevail are strong clayey loams, of various depths, and lying upon a substratum of limestone gravel.

*Agriculture.*] The scourging system of successive grain crops, till the land is foul and exhausted, prevails in M. as in too many other parts of Ireland; but in consequence of the great fertility and self-restorative power of the soil, it is less ruinous than

even in some other limestone cos.; and some extensive farmers understand and practise such a system of rotation as keeps the soil in heart, and alternates green crops with grain.—In 1841 there were within the rural districts of the co. 5,339 farms of from 1 acre to 5 acres, 3,971 of from 5 to 15 acres, 1,637 of from 15 to 30 acres, and 2,554 of upwards of 30 acres. In the same year there were within the whole co. 7,585 farmers, 34,734 servants and labourers, 394 ploughmen, 362 gardeners, 39 graziers, 1,575 herds, 274 land-stewards, and 57 dairy-keepers.—The number of acres under crops in 1848 was 217,536, viz.: wheat, 37,107; oats, 77,459; barley, bere, and rye, 7,921; pease and beans, 2,577; potatoes, 16,705; turnips, 10,248; mangel-wurzel, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage, 1,593; flax, 259; meadow and clover, 63,667. Of plantations there were in 1841, 119 acres oak, 229 ash, 48 elm, 99 beech, 517 fir, 10,749 mixed timber, and 1,006 fruit, besides 1,422,244 detached trees, equivalent to 8,889 acres of plantation; total, 21,656 acres. The number of farms in 1841 above 1 acre each was 13,513, on which there was a stock of 22,706 horses and mules, 83,471 horned cattle, 119,406 sheep, 34,607 pigs, 302,630 head of poultry, and 1,890 asses; the estimated value of all which was £908,272. In 1848, on 15,248 holdings, there were 21,463 horses, 3,283 mules and asses, 101,893 cattle, 134,290 sheep, 14,488 pigs, 4,420 goats, 206,612 poultry.—Most of the black cattle are improved crosses between various native breeds and the Durham or short-horned. Great improvements have been made in sheep by crossing with the Leicester breed.

*Manufactures and trade.*] A *vidimus* of the manufactures of the co. in 1802, shows that at that time from 200 to 300 looms were employed in weaving sackcloth in the town of Navan, and that a number of looms were employed upon the same fabric in various other parts of the co. The best, though only an indirect view, of the recent state of manufactures and trade, is afforded by the personal statistics of productive industry exhibited in the census of 1841, which returned 68 as factory-workers, 85 flax-dressers, 1,458 spinners of flax, 1,484 spinners of wool, and 4,596 spinners of unspecified classes; 42 weavers of cotton, 249 of linen, 43 of woollen, 88 of lace, and of unspecified classes 1,031; hatters, 38; bonnet-makers, 30; straw-workers, 6; basket-makers, 36; iron-founders, 6; blacksmiths, 708; machine-makers, 9; paper-makers, 15; chandlers and soap-boilers, 22.

*Communications.*] The Boyne is navigable to Navan. The Royal canal intersects a portion of the S part of the co. The Dublin and Drogheda railway passes along the sea-board; and a line of railway connects the Drogheda terminus of the Dublin and Drogheda railway with the town of Navan; and is now being continued to Kells.—The principal roads through the co. are the Dublin and Belfast mail-road through Ashbourne and Drogheda, the Dublin and Londonderry mail-road through Slane, and the Dublin and Enniskillen mail-road through Dunshaughlin, Navan, and Kells. The co.-surveyor had under his charge in 1841 about 500 m. of road.

*Divisions and towns.*] The co. is divided into the two great districts of Dunshaughlin and Kells, the former on the E, and the latter on the W of the Boyne. The co. is divided into 18 baronies, and 146 parishes.—The principal towns are Navan, Kells, and Trim. The constabulary force has its head-quarters at Navan, and is distributed through 46 stations. The co. jail is at Trim; bridewells are at Trim, Navan, and Kells; and the district lunatic asylum is at Dublin. The assizes are held at Trim.—The annual amount of property valued for the poor-rate is £580,643; the annual amount of property valued under the act 6<sup>o</sup> and 7<sup>o</sup> William IV. is £527,330. Two members were sent to the Irish parliament from the co. at large, and 2 from each of the boroughs of Ratoath, Duleek, Navan, Trim, Kells, and Athboy; only the 2 members for the co. are sent to the impe-

rial parliament. Constituency in 1841 and in 1849, 1,236.

**Population.** The pop. was in 1792, 69,000; in 1821, 128,042; in 1831, 136,872; in 1841, 183,828; in 1851, only 139,706, showing a decrease of 24 per cent. within the last decennial period. Houses in 1792, 13,693; in 1821, 23,478; in 1831, 23,803; in 1841, 30,785; in 1851, 25,250.—The following statistics are all of 1841. Families residing in first-class houses, 745; in second-class houses, 4,212; in third-class houses, 16,416; in fourth-class houses, 11,364. Families employed chiefly in agriculture, 23,978; in manufactures and trade, 6,043; in other pursuits, 2,716. Families dependent chiefly on property and professions, 584; on the directing of labour, 10,023; on their own manual labour, 21,325; on means not specified, 805. Clergymen of the Established church, 49; Methodist ministers, 2; Presbyterian ministers, 3; Roman Catholic clergymen, 58.—The number of children attending public schools in 1841 was 10,191. In Sept. 1848 there were 131 national schools, attended by 15,583 children.

**History.** The history of the co. of M., down to near the close of the reign of Henry VIII., is that of successively the kingdom, the lordship, and the co.-palatine of M. During the rebellion of 1641, the English entered Trim, made it a military post, and the theatre of negotiations for concluding a peace with the insurgents. In 1647 Trim was unsuccessfully besieged by General Preston; in 1649 it became an asylum to some of the royalists, who were beaten at Rathmines in the co. of Dublin; and after the capture of Drogheda, and the massacre of the garrison of that town by Cromwell, it was without resistance surrendered to the parliamentarians. In 1690, the famous battle of the Boyne, so prolific of momentous consequences to the whole of the three kingdoms, and in a sense to Europe, was fought principally on the N. border of this co.

**MEAULNE**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Allier, cant. and 11 m. W. of Cerilly, near the r. bank of the Cher, a little below the confluence of the Aunance. Pop. 850. Potter's clay is found in the environs.

**MEAUNES**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Var, cant. and 4 m. S. of La Roque-Brussane, on an affluent of the Latay. Pop. 1,130.

**MEAUX**, an arrondissement, canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Marne.—The arrond. comprises an area of 119,501 hect., and contains 7 cant. Pop. in 1831, 93,417; in 1841, 93,252. The cant. comprises 15 coms. Pop. in 1831, 16,880; in 1841, 17,066. The town is 30 m. ENE of Paris, and 35 m. N. of Melun, on the Marne, by which it is divided into two unequal parts, at an alt. of 147 ft. above sea-level, and in N lat. 48° 57' 40". E long. 2° 52' 30". Pop. in 1789, 6,240; in 1821, 7,375; in 1831, 8,537; in 1841, 9,000. It is ill-laid out, but is well-built, and has a spacious public square, and several fine promenades along the banks of the Marne, and on the ancient ramparts, which are finely planted with trees. The only remarkable edifice which it possesses is the cathedral, a handsome structure, founded in the 11th cent. by Bishop Gautier I., containing a magnificent choir, and a statue in white marble of Bossuet, who was one of the first bishops of M. It has also a Calvinist consistorial and 2 parish-churches, a justiciary-hall, a communal college, 2 public libraries, a museum, several schools, 2 hospitals, a theatre, 2 printing establishments, and cavalry barracks. There are manufactures of cotton fabrics, printed calicoes, cordage, cables, agricultural implements, pottery, vermicelli, semolina, aqua-fortis, and vinegar, and several tanneries. Beneath the old stone-bridge which unites the two parts of the town, are several flour-mills. The navigation of the river, which is here interrupted by a fall, is continued by means of the canal of Cornillon, cut by Thibaut VI., on the l. bank, to the S. of the town. The trade is considerable, and consists chiefly in grain, flour, cheese, cattle, poultry, wool,

timber, and charcoal. The environs produce grain in great abundance, wine in small quantity, and are noted for their turnips.—M. is of great antiquity. Under the Romans it was at first apportioned to Belgium, and was afterwards comprised in Lyonnaise Gaul. Towards the middle of the 4th cent. its ancient name, *Jatinum*, was changed for that of *Meldi*, which it preserved until the 9th cent. It was a place of considerable importance in the era of the earliest kings of France. In the 9th cent. it was pillaged and destroyed by the Normans. It afterwards passed into the hands of the counts of Champagne, but was restored to the crown of France under Philippe-le-Bel. It was taken by the English in 1421, and retained by them until 1436. M. was the first town in France in which the Protestants commenced their public preaching; and it was the first to renounce the league to submit to Henry IV. It was the capital of Brie Champenoise.

**MEAVY**, a parish of Devonshire, 6 m. SE of Tavistock. Area 3,289 acres. Pop. in 1851, 294.

**MEBARREZ (EL)**, or **MUNUYEZ**, a fortified town of Arabia, in the district and 33 m. S. of Lahsa, and a little to the NE of Fonf. Pop. 10,000. It is surrounded by a deep ditch defended by lofty towers, and has one gate leading to an extensive open suburb. To the E is a well cultivated district, producing wheat, barley, rice, and dates.

**MEBU**, a town of Japan, in the island of Nifon, and prov. of Yetshou, 111 m. NW of Yedo.

**MECAOD**. See **MATAMMAH**.

**MECAOURAT (EL)**, or **MESURAT**, a valley of Nubia, in the district and 18 m. SSW of Shendy. It contains extensive ruins.

**MECATINA**, a bay in the gulf of St. Lawrence, on the N coast of Labrador, in N lat. 50° 30', W long. 60° 40'. To the N of this bay are two islands, named Great and Little Mecatina.

**MECCA**, **MEKKAH**, **OM-EL-KORA**, [i.e. 'Mother of Towns,'] or **BELAD-EL-AMEYN**, a large city of Arabia, the capital of the Hedjaz, and celebrated over all the East as the birth-place of Mahomet and the first seat of his power. It is situated in a barren and rocky country, in N lat. 21° 28', E long. 40° 15', 51 m. E of Jidda, on the Red sea, and 245 m. S by E of Medina. Its immediate position is in a narrow valley running N and S between mountains; and the houses follow the windings of the valley for about 2 m., and are built partly on the declivities upon each side. Around the principal wady, or valley, are several others, which are separated from the Desert by a low barren chain of hills from 200 to 500 ft. in height. The breadth of the town nowhere exceeds 600 paces. The streets are wide, and rather handsome, being sanded, level, and convenient; and the fronts of the houses, built rather in the Persian and Indian than the Turkish style, are in some instances of stone, and three or four stories high; they are ornamented externally with paintings and mouldings, and the windows are larger and more open than is usual in the East. This handsome external appearance is carefully preserved, as the inhabitants depend much on the letting of apartments to pilgrims; but unlike most Oriental towns, it is wholly without trees, gardens, or verdure. Owing to the confined situation of the place, there is no open square, and the markets are held in the streets. The town is defended by three castellated buildings, and is governed by a sheriff. The handsomest entrance is from Jidda. M. has no manufactures beyond that of pilgrims' chaplets; and is entirely supported by the concourse of pilgrims from every part of the Mahomedan world. During the residence of the caravans, which bring an annual addition of about 100,000 to its inhabitants, it is converted into an immense fair, covered



with sheds and booths in which the productions of the most distant regions are exposed for sale. The quarter called *Shamye* is chiefly inhabited by merchants and the *ulemas* attendant on the great mosque; but this resort has now greatly diminished, partly in consequence of the decay of religious zeal, and the general decline of power and wealth among the Mahomedan states; partly also from M. being exposed to the rude incursions of the Wahabis, who took it in 1804 and 1807, and held it till 1813. It is not now supposed to contain more than 26,000 or 28,000 inhabitants, of whom about 3,000 are Negro and Abyssinian slaves. Many quarters are abandoned and in ruins; and of the houses that remain, two-thirds are empty. Notwithstanding the sacred character of M., it has now very little reputation for learning; no regular schools are kept, unless for the common branches of reading and writing; occasionally a few *talbes* or doctors presenting themselves in the temple, read and expound the Koran to any one who chooses to listen. The chief ornament of M. is the great mosque, called the *Beitallah* or 'House of God,' called also *El Belkat*, in the interior of which is the *Kaaba*, or house of the prophet.

*The Kaaba.* The *Kaaba* or *Ka'bah*—so called from its form being nearly a *kaab* or cube—was built, according to Mahomedan legend, by Abraham himself. One account says that the stones came of themselves from Mount Ararat to the spot where they were to be used; another tradition says, that every mountain in the world contributed something to the building, that it might thus represent them all! Simple as the plan of this edifice is, it is believed by faithful Moslems to have been designed and laid out by no less a personage than the angel Gabriel, who marked out the ground, and taught Abraham to pronounce four words by virtue of which the *Kaaba* built itself. The oblong square in which this Moslem sanctuary stands is 250 paces long, and 200 broad; and is formed by a colonnade, the pillars of which stand in a quadruple row, and are united at the top by pointed arches. Each pillar is about 20 ft. in height, and from a foot to 1½ ft. in thickness: some of them are of white marble, granite, or porphyry, but the greater number are of common stone from the neighbouring mountains. The pillars are said to be 539 in number, along the whole of which lamps are suspended from the arches, many of which are lighted every night, and all of them during the nights of the Ramadhan. Between every three or four columns stands an octagonal one, 4 ft. in thickness; and no two bases or capitals are exactly alike; most of them are of coarse Saracen workmanship, and a few of them belong to Grecian orders. This temple has been often ruined and repaired, so that it contains few antiquities or ancient inscriptions. Parts of the walls are painted, the floors of the colonnades are paved, and seven causeways lead from them to the *Kaaba* in the centre, which is an oblong massive structure, 44 ft. long, 35 ft. wide, and from 35 to 40 ft. in height; constructed of grey stone, in large blocks of different sizes, joined together in a very rough manner and with bad cement. Its roof being flat, it has at a distance the appearance of a perfect cube. It has only one door, which is raised 7 ft. from the ground, and is opened only two or three times in the year. At the NE corner of the *Kaaba*, near the door, is the famous black stone, of an oval form, about 7 inches diam., apparently a lava, or volcanic basalt, containing several extraneous particles of a whitish and of a yellowish substance; its general colour is now—for it is said once to have been white—a deep reddish colour approaching to black. It appears to have been fractured by a violent blow, and is surrounded by a border of cement 2 inches broad, which serves to support the detached pieces of the stone. Both the stone and its composition border are enclosed by a silver ring studded with silver nails. The stone has been worn to its present surface by the millions of touches and kisses it has received. All Bey tells us that "this miraculous stone was a transparent byacinth brought from heaven to Abraham by the angel Gabriel, as a pledge of his divinity, and that being touched by an impure woman, it became black and opaque." A wilder fiction makes it the pledge of the belief which all orders of spiritual beings confessed to their Creator, when he demanded of them if he was not their God, at the moment of their creation. They answered 'Yes'; and the answer, in some substantial form, was deposited in the centre of this stone, that its testimony at the last judgment might confound those who have apostatized from their faith. "Verily," says Mahomet, "it shall be called upon at the last day; it shall see, it shall speak, and bear witness of those who shall have touched it in truth and sincerity of heart!" The kisses and touches of the pilgrims have worn away about 12 lines of its thickness, and indented its surface, so as to give it a sort of muscular appearance. As we hear of no volcanic substances in this country, and as this stone was made an object of idolatrous veneration by Mahomet, taking advantage of an old and rooted superstition, is it not likely that it may have been an aerolite or sky-stone? There is a stone also at the SE corner of the *Kaaba*, which the people touch, but do

not kiss. On the W side is the famous myzab or water-spout, in which the rain water falls. In the mosaic pavement which surrounds this sacred building are two slabs of fine *verde-antico* under which, it is said, lie the ashes of Abraham and Hagar, with those of their son Ishmael: here pious pilgrims recite a prayer of two *rikats*. The four sides of the *Kaaba* are covered with black silk stuff, hanging down, and leaving the roof bare. This curtain is sent annually from Constantinople, at the expense of the sultan, the new hangings being put up every year at the commencement of the hadj or pilgrimage. Its black curtains give the *Kaaba* an imposing appearance, and when they are undulated by the wind, the pilgrims regard it as a token of the presence of the guardian angels, 70,000 of whom have the edifice in their holy care. One of the most remarkable objects of the great mosque is the holy well, *Zemzem*. It is enclosed by a square building, the interior of which is ornamented with marbles of different colours. This room, from dawn till midnight, is constantly full of visitors, who come to drink this holy water. The Turks consider it a miracle that the water of this well never diminishes, but this singularity is owing to its being supplied by a subterranean rivulet. The water is heavy to the taste, and though sweet, it has some times a white milky colour. It is slightly tepid when first drawn. The *Zemzem* supplies the whole town. The water, which is distributed at the mosque for a trifle by water-carriers, is regarded as an infallible cure for all diseases, and vast quantities are used by invalids both for drinking and for ablutions. Copper and tin bottles are filled with it, and carried to the most distant regions of the land of Moslem. "I need not remind the reader," says Burekhardt, "that *Zemzem* is supposed to be the spring found in the wilderness by Hagar, at the moment when her infant son, Ishmael, was dying of thirst. It seems probable that the town of M. owes its origin to this well: for many miles round no sweet water is found, nor is there in any part of the adjacent country so copious a supply.—Every stranger in visiting M. must perform a variety of rites in the interior of the temple, which contains these and many other objects of Moslem veneration. Prayers are recited at the entrance of the Colonadi; others of two *rikats*, or four prostrations, when the *Kaaba* first comes in view; the black stone is approached and kissed, and appointed prayers offered up; and the *tawaf* or walk round the *Kaaba* is performed in a quick pace, in imitation of the prophet, who, to contradict the report that he was ill, convinced his enemies of the contrary by running thrice at full speed round the sacred edifice. At a place called *El Metzem*, the worshipper, with outstretched arms, and his breast pressed against the wall, beseeches the Lord to pardon his sins; and after more prayers of several *rikats*, at different spots, he repairs to the holy well of *Zemzem*, and drinks as much of its water as he can hold. Then, without the temple, he must walk the *say*, that is walking fast and praying aloud four times from *Saafa* to *Merona*. After this he enters a barber's shop, and has a part of his head shaved, and then he proceeds to *Omra*, an hour and a half from M., where he repeats two *rikats* in a chapel. There are many other rites or ceremonies which must be duly performed at the times appointed for them.—At sunset vast numbers assemble, and form themselves into circles, for M. is the only spot in the world where the faithful may worship with his face to every point of the compass. The Imam takes his post near the gate of the *Kaaba*, and his genuflections are imitated by the whole assembled multitude. There are always many persons under the arches of the colonnade: some eating their dinners, others praying; those with diseased persons, boys at play in the area, and servants carrying luggage, schools where children learn to read, learned men delivering lectures, and indecent practices going on in the very precincts of the *Kaaba*, form altogether a busy and a most incongruous scene. The *Kaaba* is opened at sunrise three times in the year. The walls within are covered with silken curtains, on which there are inscriptions." Another ceremony is the pilgrimage to Mount Ararat, situated about 15 m. to the SE of the city. See *ARAFAT*.

The climate of M. is exceedingly sultry, the heat being reflected from the surrounding rocks, and is especially unwholesome in August, September, and October. The balm of M. is found in the surrounding country. It is produced from a plant called *beshem*, which grows to the height of 10 or 12 ft. On making an incision in the bark, the juice issues, and forms a white or a yellowish white gum. In 1818, Ibrahim Pasha seized this city and the surrounding district.

**MECCA**, a township of Trumbull co., in the state of Ohio, U. S., 180 m. NE of Columbus. Pop. 684.

**MECEJANA**, a district and village of Brazil, in the prov. of Ceara. The town is 12 m. SE of Nossa-Senhora-d'Assumpcao, on the Atlantic. Pop. 2,000. It has a parish-church, and a town-house. Agriculture, fishing, and the rearing of cattle, form the chief branches of local industry.

**MECERREYES**, a town of Spain, in Old Castile, in the prov. and 17 m. SE of Burgos, and partido of Lerma. Pop. 676.

**MECHANIC**, a township of Holmes co., in the state of Ohio, U. S. Pop. in 1840, 1,403.

**MECHANICSBURG**, a town of Cumberland co. in the state of Pennsylvania, U. S., 6 m. SW of Harrisburg. Pop. in 1840, 670.—Also a village of Goshen township, Champaign co., in the state of Ohio, 36 m. W by N of Columbus, near the head of Little Darby creek. Pop. in 1840, 258.—Also a village of Sangannon co., in the state of Illinois, 15 m. E of Springfield, in a prairie, near Clear river.

**MECHANICSVILLE**, a village of Jasper co., in the state of Georgia, U. S., 45 m. W of Milledgeville,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. E of the Ocmulgee river.

**MECHANICVILLE**, a village of Stillwater township, Saragota co., in the state of New York, U. S., on the W side of Hudson river, intersected by the Champlain canal.

**MECHEHEH**. See **MESHID**.

**MECHELEN**, a department, commune, and town of Belgium, in the prov. of Limburg, and arrond. of Tongres, 8 m. N of Maestricht, on the Meuse. Pop. 1,145.

**MECHELRODA**, a village of the duchy of Saxe-Weimar, to the E of Berka. Pop. 177.

**MECHISSES**, a township of Washington co., in the state of Maine, U. S., 157 m. E by N of Augusta, on E. Machias river. Pop. in 1840, 1,395.

**MECHKOUTS**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Vilna, district and 15 m. NE of Chavli, and 36 m. NW of Poneviej.

**MECHLIN**, **MECHELEN**, **MECHELN**, or **MALINES**, a large town of Belgium, in the prov. of Antwerp, situated on the Dyle, by which it is divided into two parts. It is tolerably built, though for the most part in an antiquated style, and presents a decayed appearance. The streets are broad, accurately clean, and bordered in many places by grotesque-looking old houses, of great size, and rich in points and gables; and the general practice of painting the fronts of the houses gives them a fresh and clean appearance. The public square called the Place-d'armes, and the market-place, are spacious and regularly built. Of the public buildings, the most remarkable is the cathedral, an edifice of the 12th cent. Its solid Moresco tower, though not a finished structure, is of the extraordinary height of 348 ft., and affords a delightful view of the town and environs. The interior is large, lofty, and elegant; and contains a number of allegorical figures and paintings, some of which are by Rubens and Vandyk. The other principal buildings are the arsenal, the town-house, a Franciscan monastery, and a large Beguine house or asylum for 800 widows and elderly women. The manufactures of M. consist of fine Brabant lace, but of a somewhat coarser texture than that of Brussels, and linen, besides damask, silk and woollen stuffs, cashmere shawls, gilded leather chairs, leather, and hats. Its lace manufacture has been greatly interfered with by competition, and above all by the invention of tulle and bobbin-net. It has likewise considerable breweries, and a brisk trade in corn, particularly in buck-wheat. The district around it is highly agricultural, and the canals and railroads which traverse it and pass by the city have rendered it an entrepot for flax, corn, and oil. At high water, vessels of considerable draught reach the town from the Scheldt. M. is a very ancient town. Its name has been derived from *Maris linea*; and the influence of the tide upon the current of the Scheldt, and its tributary the Dyle, is felt for a mile beyond the town. It was once fortified, but the French levelled the ramparts and filled up the fosse in 1804. Mechlin suffered in some degree from the military operations of 1793 and 1794, but more from the subsequent discouragement of trade in the reign of Bona-

parte. In 1785 it is said to have had a pop. of 26,000; at present the number is rather below 28,000. It is the see of an archbishop. By railway and steamboat M. is 271 m. from London *via* Ostend. It is 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Antwerp by railroad; and 59 m. from Liege.

**MECHTCHERIATSKAIA**, a town of Russia in Asia, in the gov. of Orenburg, district and 90 m. ENE of Tcheliabinsk, and 36 m. WSW of Kour-tamych.

**MECHTERSTEDT**, a village of the duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in the principality and 6 m. W of Gotha, and 3 m. N of Waltershausen.

**MECKENHEIM**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of the Rhine, regency and 23 m. S of Cologne, circle and 3 m. E of Rheinbach, on the Erft. Pop. 1,300.—Also a village of Bavaria, in the circle of the Pfalz, 4 m. SE of Dürkheim. Pop. 1,756.

**MECKESHEIM**, a village of Baden, in the dep. of the Lower Rhine, on the Elséns, 8 m. SE of Heidelberg. Pop. 1,070.

**MECKLENBRUCK**, a marshy district in the duchy of Brunswick, and circle of Holzminden. It contains the glass-work of Moor-hütte.

**MECKLENBURG**, a county in the S part of the state of Virginia, U. S., comprising an area of 640 sq. m., bounded on the N by Meherin river, and watered by Roanoke river and its tributaries. Pop. in 1840, 20,724, of whom 11,915 were slaves; in 1850, 20,616. Its cap. is Boynton.—Also a co. in the SW part of the state of North Carolina, containing a superficies, generally undulating, of 900 sq. m., bordered on the W by Catawba river, and watered by its branches. It has a highly productive soil, and contains several productive gold mines. Pop. in 1840, 18,273, of whom 6,322 were slaves; in 1850, 13,888. Its capital is Charlotte.—Also a village of Hector township, Tomkins co., in the state of New York, 174 m. W by S of Albany. Pop. in 1840, 350.—Also a village of Knox co., in the state of Tennessee, 188 m. E of Nashville, on the E side of Holston river, a little above the junction of French Broad river.

**MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN**, a grand-duchy of N. Germany, bounded on the N by the Baltic; on the E by the Prussian states; on the SE by Mecklenburg-Strelitz; on the S by Prussian Saxony; on the SW by Hanover; and on the W by Luneburg, and the principality of Ratzeburg, belonging to Mecklenburg-Strelitz. This country, the superficial area of which is 228 German or 4,842 English sq. m., is part of the great plain of N. Germany, but is interspersed with very small hills, one of which, the Ruhnburg, rises 600 ft. above the level of the Baltic. In the centre, from E to W, is a ridge, nowhere elevated more than 200 or 300 ft. above the level of the sea, which divides the course of the several streams of water that rise in the country. All the rivers on the N side of this ridge run to the Baltic, and all to the S of it empty themselves into the river Elbe, which touches the S boundary. The coast towards the Baltic is little indented; its principal features are the peninsula of Fischland, the gulf of Wismar with the isle of Poel; and the lagune of Ribnitz. There are here no perceptible tides, and the shore is protected by extensive downs of sand. The 'holy dyke,' at the coast of Dobberna, about 2 m. in length, 100 ft. broad, and 15 or 16 ft. high, consists entirely of small loose pebbles.—The principal river is the Elbe; the smaller ones are the Elde, the Rechnitz, and the Peene. There are a number of inland lakes, said to amount altogether to 329. The Muntz-see has an area of 50 sq. m. The Sea of Dassow, although connected with the Baltic, is properly only an inland lake.—The climate is tem-

perate but variable, and the winter severe. The mean temperature is about  $52^{\circ} 5'$ . Agriculture is the principal branch of industry. Apples are exported in great quantities. The rearing of cattle is extensively conducted. The sheep have been greatly improved for crossing with Merinoes. M. excels all other countries of Germany in the rearing of horses, which are exported in great numbers. In several extensive studs, the original M. breed, which in itself is good, has been improved by English full-blood and Arabian horses. There are quarries of marble and salt-mines in the duchy. On both borders of the great central ridge the soil is a poor sand, covered with heath. Few tracts in any part of Europe are more miserable in cultivation, or more thinly inhabited, than that between the two towns of Schwerin and Gustrow, a distance of nearly 40 m. To the S of this district the soil is somewhat better; and beyond Gustrow, towards what was formerly Swedish Pomerania, the sand gradually changes into a good loam, which when well-cultivated is very appropriate for the growth of rye and wheat. Near the shores of the Baltic the soil is for the most part a meagre sand, but intermixed with stripes of loamy land, capable of bearing rye and some little wheat. With the exception of the sandy heaths, the face of the country may be described as cheerful and pleasing; the land is mostly enclosed, in rather too large divisions indeed; the woods, which are extensive, are scattered over the district; and there are abundance of freshwater lakes, on whose borders good meadow lands occasionally present themselves.—The ancient feudal system which formerly prevailed over all Germany, as well as in the rest of Europe, has been gradually changed here. The peasants were in a state of slavery of a mitigated kind: they could acquire, enjoy, and transmit property, but were *adscripti glebe*, and bound to the soil so as to be sold or let to farm with it. The M. government took measures, on the restoration of peace in 1815, to abolish this relic of the barbarous age in a gradual manner; and all the peasants who still remained in the condition of serfs,—for many of the proprietors had previously emancipated those on their own estates,—were declared free, though the actual completion only finally took effect in 1826. [*Jacobs' Report.*]—The commerce is very animated. The annual value of the exportations is estimated at 12,000,000 fr. It employed in 1851, 318 ships, 5 steamers, and 52 small coasting-barks.—The condition of the labouring classes is comparatively comfortable in this duchy. The aged and infirm are lodged and boarded, and the poor who are in good health may claim employment and a residence. In the towns, the subscriptions for the poor are voluntary; but when the amount thus raised is unequal to the expenditure, the overseers, who are named by the magistrates, may demand more. The wages of artisans vary in the towns from 6s. 8d. to 10s. a week; in the country they are about one-third less. Besides their money-wages, the workmen usually receive their board and lodging from their employers. The agricultural labourers are rewarded by a sum of 3s. 6d. per week, with a dwelling, a garden, pasture for a cow and two sheep in summer, and forage for the animals in winter. The pop. was estimated by Hassel, in 1817, at 351,908. Balbi states it to have been, in 1826, 431,000. On 1st December 1851, it was returned at 543,328. It is composed chiefly of the descendants of the Obotrites, and the language is Low German. The vast majority are Lutherans; the Catholics in 1851 were only 635; the Jews amounted to 3,333. There is a university in the duchy, and several good gymnasiums and high schools exist in the towns. Every village of 20 families must support a school; but the lower

classes are said to be behind those of other German countries in information. The government is monarchical and representative. The diet [*Landesunion*], which has been united as one legislative body to that of Strelitz since 1523, and assembles alternately at Sternberg and at Malchin, consists of the landed proprietors among the nobility, numbering in 1837, 572, and deputies from 41 towns, amounting in all to between 500 and 600. There are 6 Lutheran dioceses and 319 parishes, and 2 Roman Catholic parishes. The grand-duke of M. holds, together with Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the 14th place in the German confederacy, and has 2 votes in *plenum*. The succession goes in the male line.—The revenue in 1826 was about 6,000,000 francs, or £250,000, and the debt 24,500,000 francs, or £1,020,833. In the budget for the year from June 1851 to June 1852, the revenue was taken at 3,153,126 dollars; the expenditure, at 3,395,474 d. The public debt amounted in June 1851 to 4,609,171 d. The private grand-ducal debt exceeded this sum. The military force in 1852 consisted of 2,500 men. The federal contingent is 3,580. The only fortified place is the citadel of Dörmitz.

[*Divisions and chief towns.*] The grand-duchy is administratively divided into the circle of M., with an area of 134 German sq. m.; the circle of Wendin; the principality of Schwerin; the lordship of Wismar; and the town of Rostock, which has its own laws. The capital, Schwerin, lies partly on an island in the lake. The duke only resides here a few weeks in winter. Dobberan, near the Baltic, is a celebrated sea-bathing place, having annually from 600 to 1,000 visitors. Ludwigslust, between the Regnitz and the Elbe, is the usual residence of the duke. Wismar, on the Baltic, has a good harbour, and large timber yards, and conducts a considerable commerce.—Rostock, on the Warnow, which is navigable, is the most important Mecklenburg town, and has a very animated yearly fair. Its university was founded in 1419. Its commerce is carried on from Warnemünde, a port on the Baltic. At Ivenack the most famous stud in all Germany is kept. The horses are almost all of English or Arabian breed, and fetch high prices over all the continent.

[*History.*] Herulians and Wendes inhabited the coasts of the Baltic, and the present duchy of M. in the earliest ages. These tribes having followed the general emigration towards the south, were succeeded by Slavonians coming from the east. Between two of the most powerful tribes, the Obotrites and the Wilzes, an ancient feud existed. The Obotrites, who, in the time of Charlemagne, consisted of the Obotrites properly so called, in the west of Mecklenburg,—the Polabes, in Ratzeburg and Lanenburg,—and the Wagrians, in Holstein, conquered the Wilzes in Eastern M. in 782, and took possession of a large part of that country. The conversion and subjection of the Slavonian tribes occasioned long and bloody wars. Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, at length subdued these fierce tribes; and afterwards made peace with the Wendish prince, Pribislav, who embraced the Christian faith, and whose son, Henry Burgwin, received Henry's daughter, Mathilda, in marriage. In 1170, Pribislav was declared a prince of the empire. This chief was the ancestor of the succeeding princes of M., whose house is the oldest princely house in Europe, and the only one whose Slavonian descent is indisputable. The name Mecklenburg was that of the ancient cap. of the Obotrites, *Mecklinborg*, which was destroyed in early times, and is now a village between Wismar and Briell. After the death of Henry Burgwin II. the sovereignty was divided between the four lines of M., Gustrow, Rostock, and Parchim; but the two latter became extinct soon after. John, surnamed Theologus, to whom M. was given, was created doctor of theology by the university of Paris. His grandson, Henry the Lion, greatly enlarged his paternal territories. Henry's sons, Albrecht and John, founded the two lines of Stargard and Schwerin, and were created dukes by Charles IV. in 1340. Both lines were again united under Henry the Fat; and his two grandsons, Adolph Frederic and John Albert, founded the lines of Schwerin and Gustrow. Ferdinand III., on account of their alliance with Denmark, deposed both, and bestowed the country, in 1627, on the celebrated Wallenstein; but in 1632, Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden restored them. The Schwerin line was afterwards divided into the two branches of Schwerin and Strelitz, while that of Gustrow became extinct in 1696. The grand duke, Frederic



Francis, joined the Rhenish confederation, and afterwards, in the congress of Vienna, the German confederacy. He was succeeded by Paul Frederic born in 1800, whose son Frederic Francis, born in 1823, is the reigning sovereign. The grand-ducal family of M. is related to nearly all the reigning houses of Europe. From Mecklenburg down to the present day this family reckons 29 generations. It has contracted alliances with 19 sovereign states, and with 23 sovereign families, of which 15 still exist. It has received the blood of 20 reigning houses through 31 princesses. Russia gave it a niece of Peter the Great, and a daughter of Paul I.; Sweden a daughter of Gustavus Wasa; Denmark a grand-niece of Canute the Great, king of England; and Prussia, five princesses, among whom is Alexandrina, mother of the present grand duke. Its blood has been mingled with 9 foreign sovereign houses, who have intermarried with 14 princesses of M. It gave to Russia the regent Anne, mother of the Czar Ivan; to England, Queen Charlotte, consort of George III.; to Denmark, Louise, consort of Frederick IV.; to Poland, Luitgards, consort of Przemislus II.; to Prussia, Sophia Louisa, consort of Frederick I.; and the unfortunate Louisa, the celebrated consort of the reigning king, Frederick William III. It gave a king to Sweden through the celebrated Margaret, distinguished as the Semiramis of the North, who made the treaty of Colmar, in 1412. In fine, having become allied with 11 daughters or sisters of kings, it has given seven queens or regents to Russia, England, Denmark, Poland, Prussia, and in the person of the princess Helena, a wife to the heir-apparent to the throne of France, under the regime of Louis-Philippe.

**MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ**, a grand-duchy of N. Germany, consisting of, 1st, the principality of Stargard, bounded on the NE and S by the Prussian territories, and on the W by Mecklenburg-Schwerin; and, 2d, the principality of Ratzeburg, bounded on the N by the lake of Dassow; on the E by Schwerin; on the S by Lauenburg; and on the W by the lake of Ratzeburg, and the territory of the town of Lübeck. The superficial area amounts to 36.1 German sq. m., of which 6.5 sq. m. belong to Ratzeburg. The surface is nearly a dead level, intersected by a few lakes and rivers. The principal river is the Tollen, coming from the lake of the same name. There are in all 132 lakes scattered over the duchy. The climate is like that of Schwerin, but the soil is in general lighter.—The inhabitants, amounting in 1826 to 77,000, and in July, 1848, to 96,292, are chiefly of Wendish descent, and the Low German is here also the dialect of the lower classes. The religion is Lutheran, and there are about 732 Jews.—The government and constitution are the same as in Schwerin. The revenue is about £45,000, and the state-debt about £125,000. The contingent is 717 men.—New Strelitz, with about 5,000 inhabitants, is the capital, and the residence of the grand duke. New Brandenburg, on the Tollen-see, has 5,145 inhabitants.

*History.* The duke Charles joined the Rhenish confederacy at the same time with the duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and afterwards the German confederacy, when he took the title of grand duke. His sister was the Queen Charlotte of England, wife of George III., and his daughter was married to the duke of Cumberland. He was succeeded by his son George Frederic, in 1816.

**MECO**, a town of Spain, in New Castile, in the prov. of Madrid, partido and 8 m. NNE of Alcáza, on a height commanding a plain watered by the Henares. Pop. 1,027. It has a fine Gothic church, an hospital, a custom-house, and a public granary.

**MECZENSEFF, METZENSEIF, or METZENZEF**, a town of Hungary, in the comitat of Abauj, 18 m. E of Rosenan, and at an equal distance W of Kaschau, on the Bodva. It is divided by a rising ground into an upper and a lower town, containing respectively 1,938 and 3,421 inhabitants. The industry of the place consists chiefly in working a copper-mine, in the manufacture of gun-flints and of various kinds of implements.

**MEDA**, a village of Austria in Lombardy, in the gov. and deleg. of Milan, 9 m. NW of Monza. Pop. 1,600.

**MEDANOS**, an isthmus of Venezuela, in the dep. of Sulia, running between the peninsula of Paraguaná, which encloses the gulf of Maracaybo on the

E, and the continent. It is 21 m. in length, and about 3 m. in breadth. It derives its name from the sandy hills with which its surface is covered.

**MEDARD (SAINT)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Charente-Inferieure, and cant. and 3 m. NE of La Jarrie, and 9 m. W of La Rochelle. Pop. 1,531.—Also a commune in the dep. of the Creuse, cant. and 6 m. SSW of Chénérailles, and 7 m. N of Aubusson. Pop. 1,586.—Also a commune in the dep. of the Gironde, and cant. of Contras. Pop. 924. It affords excellent wine.—Also a village in the dep. of the Gers, cant. and 8 m. NNW of Lectoure. Pop. 1,105.

**MEDARD-DE-DRONNE (SAINT)**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Dordogne, cant. and 3 m. E of Ribérac, near the l. bank of the Dronne. Pop. 590.

**MEDARD-DE-GURÇON (SAINT)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Dordogne, cant. and 8 m. SE of Villefranche-de-Louchapt. Pop. 1,801.

**MEDARD-EN-JALLE (SAINT)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Gironde, cant. and 5 m. W of Blanquefort, and 9 m. NW of Bordeaux, near the l. bank of the Jalle. Pop. 1,667. It has a government powder manufactory.

**MEDAWARA**, a station on the pilgrim caravan route to Mecca, in Arabia Petrea, 50 m. E of Akaba.

**MEDBOURNE**, a parish of Leicestershire, 4½ m. WNW of Rockingham. Area 2,560 acres. Pop. in 1831, 513; in 1851, 567.

**MEDCHALIS**, a district of Russia in Europe, in Northern Daghestan, in the khanat of Outsmü. It is very fertile, and is noted for its grapes.

**MEDE**, a town of Sardinia, in Piedmont, capital of a mandemento, in the div. and 26 m. S of Novara, and prov. of Lomellina.

**MEDEAH, MEHEDIA, or MEDEYA**, a fortified town of Algeria, in the prov. and 30 m. SW of Algiers, and 12 m. SW of Bledah, in N lat. 36° 25', E long. 3°, on a plateau of the first chain of the Atlas, near the Col of Monzaia, and the r. bank of the Shelif. Pop. in 1848, 4,970, of whom 1,390 were Europeans. It is supposed by Shaw to occupy the ancient *Lamida*; and it contains the remains of aqueducts and other edifices of Roman structure, some of which have been restored to use. It was formerly the cap. of the beylik of Titteri. It was taken in 1830 by the French, and has been occupied by them since 1840. The environs are fertile and well-cultivated.

**MEDEBACH, or MADEBEKE**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of Westphalia, regency and 32 m. SE of Arensburg, circle and 17 m. S of Brilon. Pop. 2,330. It has manufactories of woollen fabrics and of potash.

**MEDELBYE**, a village of Denmark, in the duchy of Holstein, NW of Flensburg.

**MEDELIM**, a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Beira, comarca and 26 m. ENE of Castello-Branco and 33 m. S of Guarda.

**MEDELLIN**, a town of Spain, in Estremadura, in the prov. and 42 m. E of Badajoz, and partido of Don-Benito, at the foot of a mountain, near the l. bank of the Guadiana, which is here crossed by a fine bridge of 20 arches. Pop. 2,000. It contains 2 parish-churches and several convents, but the greater number of the houses are in a ruinous condition. This town is noted as the birth-place of Fernando-Cortez. It was founded by the Roman consul, Quintus Cecilius Metellus. It was the scene of a signal victory over the Spaniards by the French in 1809.

**MEDELLIN**, a river of Mexico, in the state of Vera Cruz, which runs E, and after a course of about 30 m. throws itself into the gulf of Mexico, 6 m. S of La Vera Cruz. On its r. bank is a village of the same name, founded by Cortez.

**MEDEMBLIK**, a port of Holland, in the prov. of N. Holland, on the W coast of the Zuyder-zee, with a good harbour, 28 m. N by E of Amsterdam, in N lat. 52° 46' 26". Pop. 2,807. It has a considerable traffic in cheese and butter.

**MEDERA**, a small port on the E coast of the island of San Jago, in the Cape Verd group.

**MEDFIELD**, a township of Norfolk co., Massachusetts, U. S., 21 m. SSW of Boston. Pop. 883.

**MEDFORD**, a township of Middlesex co., Massachusetts, U. S., situated on Mystic river, 3 m. from its mouth, and 5 m. NW of Boston. Pop. 2,478.—Also a village in Burlington co., in New Jersey.

**MEDIANA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 18 m. SSE of Saragossa. Pop. 1,400.—Also a town of the Papal states, in the deleg. and 15 m. E of Bologna. Pop. 6,700.

**MEDIASCH**, or **MEDWISCH**, a fortified town of Transylvania, on the l. bank of the Great Kokel, the chief place of a district of the same name, 196 m. E of Belgrade, and 37 m. E of Karlsburg. Pop. 5,900.—The Stuhl-Mediasch, or administrative district attached to the town, has an area of 12·1 German sq. m., with a pop. in 1837 of 41,260; and comprises 1 city, 4 towns, and 22 villages.

**MEDICINE RIVER**, a river of North America, which rises on the E side of the Rocky mountains; runs ESE; and flows into the Missouri, 13 m. above the great falls. It is about 100 yds. wide. In many parts it is crowded with islands.

**MEDINA**, a river of the Isle of Wight, which takes its rise on the S side of the island, and flows N to Newport, and thence to Cowes, where it falls into the sea. It has been proposed to improve the navigation of this stream, so as to admit small steamers to ascend to Newport at low water, and vessels of 300 tons at high water.

**MEDINA**, or **MEDINET-EL-NABI** [*i. e.*, 'the Town of the Prophet'], a city of Arabia, in the Hedjaz, situated on the edge of the great Arabian desert, close to the chain of hills which bounds it on the W, 245 m. N of Mecca; in N lat. 25° 13', E long. 40° 3'. It is walled, and its houses are comparatively well-built of a grey-coloured stone, but it presents appearances of dilapidation and decay in many quarters, and there are few shops. The suburbs are extensive. Although containing the tomb of Mahomet, that of his great successors, Omar and Abu Bekr, of Fatima his daughter, of Ibrahim his son, and of Othman, M. holds but a secondary place in the estimation of Moslems, and attracts scarcely a third of the pilgrims who resort to Mecca. Its chief object of attraction is its great mosque, called El Harim, or, sometimes, 'the Mosque of the Prophet,' whose tomb it encloses. When M. fell into the hands of Saoud, the leader of the Wahabys, he deemed it a point of conscience to seize the treasure which had accumulated here; but the whole, it is said, did not exceed 30,000 dollars. The mosque stands at the E extremity of the town. It is 165 paces in length, and 130 in breadth; and is surrounded on all sides by colonnades, with a small building in the centre of the square. Like the great mosque of Mecca, it is an open square. On the S side, which contains the prophet's tomb, and which forms the most holy part of the building, the pillars are of larger dimensions than in the other parts, and about 2 ft. in diam. The roof of the colonnade consists of a number of small domes, white-washed on the outside. Large windows, with painted glass panes, admit the light through the southern wall; on the other sides are windows, but without glass. The tomb of the prophet is enclosed by an iron-railing painted green, within which is a curtain of rich silk brocade 30 ft. high. Persons of high rank are admitted within the

green railing; but none, except the eunuchs who have charge of this holy sepulchre, are permitted to go within the curtain. New curtains are sent occasionally from Constantinople. Next to the *Hedjra*, or tomb, in the S colonnade, is the *Rodha*, *i. e.*, 'garden,' a name bestowed upon it by the prophet himself, the favourite spot for prayers. Several places of religious veneration exist in the vicinity of M. Among these are the mountain of Ohod, less than an hour's walk from the town, where Hamze, the uncle of the prophet, was killed; Koba, where Mahomet alighted on first coming from Mecca; and El-Kebletyn. Most of the inhabitants of Medina are strangers, or the descendants of strangers; there are, however, some original Arabs, and the number of sherifs descended from Hassan, the grandson of Mahomet, is considerable. Every returning year adds to the number of new settlers; and in the course of two generations they all become Arabs as to features and character. The produce of the fields around the town is barely sufficient for four months' consumption; so that it depends chiefly on Yembo, or exports from Egypt. The neighbouring Beduins supply it with honey, butter, sheep, and charcoal. Dates form a principal article of food; and the date-harvest lasts several months every year. The climate of this town is colder than that of Mecca, and snow has been seen on the distant mountains. In winter, rains fall at intervals, and usually in violent storms. Intermittent fevers are common, and produce great languor. The pop. is from 16,000 to 20,000.

**MEDINA**, the capital of the kingdom of Urill, in Western Africa, near the r. bank of the Gambia. It is defended by a high wall surrounded by a thick hedge of stakes and bushes.—Also a village of Senegambia, in the kingdom of Faladu, near the l. bank of the Boki.—Also a small town of Sudan, in N lat. 12° 50', on the route to Massina. Its environs are well-cultivated, and its market is well-supplied with fish from the Joliba, and with lotus bread.—Also a town and fort of the island of Bahrein, near the Arabian shore of the Persian gulf. It carries on a considerable trade with Bassora, and the other ports on that sea. The harbour will admit vessels of 200 tons.—Also a village of Irak-Arabi, on the Euphrates, 60 m. NW of Bassora.—Also a small island in the Atlantic, near the coast of Africa, in N lat. 19° 45'.—Also a county in the N part of the state of Ohio, U. S. Area 425 sq. m. Pop. in 1841, 18,352; in 1851, 24,456. Its cap., of the same name, is 117 m. NNE of Columbus. Pop. 900.—Also a village in Orleans co., in New York, on the Erie canal. Pop. 800.—Also a township in Lenawee co., in Michigan, 81 m. SW of Detroit.—Also a river of Texas which rises in an extensive valley about 80 m. NW of San Antonio; runs SE; and unites with the San Antonio about 20 m. below the town of that name. Its bed is about 25 yds. wide.

**MEDINA-CELLI**, the ancient *Arcobriga*, a town of Spain, in the prov. of Soria, on the river Xalon, 84 m. SW of Saragossa. Pop. 1,700. It has a collegiate church, and several religious houses.

**MEDINA-DE-LAS-TORRES**, a town and castle of Spain, in the prov. and 42 m. SSE of Badajoz, and 20 m. WNW of Llerena, on the r. bank of the Larga. Pop. 3,000.

**MEDINA-DEL-CAMPO**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 28 m. SSW of Valladolid, and 83 m. NW of Madrid. Pop. 2,760. It has a neat square, with a fountain in the middle; but the houses are in general old and in a state of decay. The town is separated by the rivulet of Zapardiel into two parts. The Jesuits' college is a good structure; and there is a well-endowed hospital. The surrounding country is rich in wine. It is a place of antiquity, oc-

cupping the site of the ancient *Methymna Campestris*, and was the birth-place and residence of several kings of Spain.

**MEDINA-DEL-RIO-SECO**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 25 m. NW of Valladolid, situated in a plain watered by the small river Sequilla. Pop. 4,700. It was noted in former times for its manufactures and its fairs; and still has coarse woollen factories and potteries.

**MEDINA-DE-POMAR**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 42 m. NNE of Burgos. Pop. 1,240.

**MEDINA-SIDONIA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 22 m. SE of Cadiz. It is an old and walled town, consisting of several small streets, a plaza, and a few churches and convents; and has long conferred the title of a duchy. The families of Medina-Celi and Medina-Sidonia are now united. The manufacture of earthen-ware affords considerable employment to the pop.

**MEDINET-ABU**, or **MEDINET-HABOU**, a village of Upper Egypt, 32 m. N of Esneh, on the W bank of the Nile, on the site of which are several temples, and fragments of colossi and sphinxes, which appear to have belonged to ancient Thebes.

**MEDINET-EL-FAYUM**. See **FAYUM**.

**MEDINGEN**, a village of Hanover, in the gov. and 12 m. SSE of Lüneburg. Pop. 250.

**MEDITERRANEAN**, the great inland sea which forms the southern boundary of nearly the whole of Europe, and is the largest expanse of water in the world that does not strictly come under the name of ocean. It is bounded on the E by Asia; on the S by Africa; on the W it terminates in the straits of Gibraltar, by which it communicates with the N. Atlantic. At its NE extremity it is united to the Black sea by the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. It may be regarded as lying between the parallels of 30° and 46° N; and the meridians of 5° 54' W, and 36° 8' E. Its length from E to W is about 2,300 m. Its breadth varies greatly, lying between the coasts of Albania and Tripoli fully 800 m.; and between the head of the Adriatic and the bay of Sidra upwards of 1,200 m. The two large peninsular projections of Italy and Greece divide its general area into three sections; but its general breadth is from 400 to 500 m. Its area is estimated at about 600,000 sq. m.

**Divisions.** The first or most westerly of these basins, terminating at Cape Buono and the strait of Messina, is divided into two unequal parts by the islands of Corsica and Sardinia; but the gulfs of Naples, Genoa, and Lyons, are the only places that at present bear special designations in this quarter of the M. The depth of this basin is from 1,000 to 1,500 fath, near the shores where this sea washes the Pyrenees, the Alps, and the Apennines. Numerous volcanic islands, such as Lipari, Pontia, and others, are scattered over it; and all of them seem connected with the same great subterranean fire which feeds the volcanoes *Ætna* and *Vesuvius*. The Balearic group, off the coast of Spain, besides the three great islands of Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily, belong to this division of the M.

The second basin—in which M. Brun comprises the eastern section of Levant—is nearly twice as large in superficial area, but presents few islands or rocks. It extends from the coasts of Sicily and Tunis to the shores of Syria and Egypt, and forms in its N part two separate basins, each renowned in history, and well-adapted to excite the attention of the physical geographer. The first of these is the Adriatic, whose bed appears to be composed of marble and lime mixed with shells; the second is the Archipelago, whose numerous and lovely islands are all of volcanic origin. See articles **ADRIATIC** and **ARCHIPELAGO**. The gulf of the Greater Syrtis penetrates into the African continent on the S shores of this basin, where the sandy coasts are lower than in most other quarters along the M.; and vast marshes, in the midst of moving sands, seem to confound the natural limits of land and sea. The third basin—if the division of M. Brun is adopted—is that of the Black sea, which is fed by the greatest rivers of Central Europe, and receives by the strait of Caffa, or the Cimmerian Bosphorus, the waters of the *Padus Meritis*, inaccurately denominated the sea of Azof. See articles **BLACK SEA** and **AZOF**. It seems not improbable that a former strait, which has been gradually obstructed in the course of ages by the gravel and alluvial deposits from the torrents of the Caucasus, long after the last great physical revolutions of our globe, connected the sea of Azof, and consequently the Black sea, with the Caspian.

**Itters.** The Mediterranean is chiefly fed by the Nile, the Danube, the Dnieper, and other rivers which enter the Black sea; and by the Po, the Rhone, and the Ebro; thus receiving the torrents formed by the melting of the snow in Abyssinia, Switzerland, the Caucasus, and Mount Atlas. But although its feeders are so abundant, it has been generally believed that the quantity of water which enters the M. from the Atlantic is greater than that discharged from it into the same ocean; and it is alleged, in support of this supposition, that a constant and large current

flows into the middle of the strait at Gibraltar, whilst only two feeble and lateral currents issue from it. See article **GIBRALTAR** (STRAITS OF).

**Tides and currents.** The principal motion of the M. is from E to W; but the reaction of its water against the coast occasions several lateral and adverse currents. The straits, too, from their position, give rise to many very variable currents. Those near Cape Faro in Messina, or the *Charybdis* of the ancients, and the Euripus, between the continent and the island of Negropont, are the most remarkable. The tides are in most places hardly perceptible, but may be observed in the Adriatic, in the gulf of Syrtis, and in that of Cades, and also in the straits of Messina and of Gibraltar.

**Temperature, &c.** The temp. of its water is said by some to be generally from 72° to 76°, or 3°-5 higher than that of the waters of the W part of the Atlantic; but Dr. Davy's tables show it to have rather a lower temp. Its general density does not exceed that of the ocean. There is, however, great variety in the specific gravity of its water at the surface, in different places, depending no doubt on local causes.—The prevalent winds vary between NW and NE; during spring they usually are from SE to SW.—The M. abounds with fish of various species, and mollusca. The flying-fish of the Southern ocean is seen in its waters; and many of the birds of the farthest North are its visitors. Almost all its birds, and many of its fishes, are migratory. During the last 2,000 years, the waters of this sea appear to have undergone no material change. It is inhabited, Dr. Davy remarks, by the same fishes now as in the time of Aristotle. If there be a tendency to an augmentation of salt, it is probably very slight, and counteracted by the quantity of salt which is annually extracted from it by the hand of man.

**Alleged subsidence.** "It is a general opinion of the Spanish fishermen," says Dr. Spix, "that the strait of Gibraltar grows gradually wider, and this perfectly coincides with the historical accounts of the breadth of the strait. This enlargement of the channel may perhaps be connected with the subsiding of the surface of the M. In general, a phenomenon for which more historical and physical testimony may be found than for the contrary one of its increase, by encroaching on the land in some places, which probably may depend upon local circumstances. The filling up several harbours with sand, the alluvion of considerable tracts upon the coasts, and the union of islands and rocks with the continent, which were formerly surrounded by the sea, even where there are no rivers like the Nile to produce this effect, occur on many parts of the coast. The Black sea and the Caspian offer a phenomenon perfectly similar, very large tracts having gradually become uncovered on their coasts; it is therefore probable that these formerly great inland seas began to decrease in depth when they became connected with the ocean. But the hypothesis that the great basin which was once formed by the Euxine and the sea of Azoph, and perhaps also by the Caspian, after bursting its dam in the Bosphorus, flowed westwards into the Mediterranean, but receded on the E. from the declivities of the steep of Caucasus into the present level of the Caspian sea, should be combined, we think, with the opening of the strait of Gibraltar; at least there are not so many physical reasons for believing that the strait was formed by the ocean breaking through. It must be left to future investigation to determine whether a conformation like that in the M. is found in other great gulfs, for instance that of Mexico, which it in so many respects resembles."

**Influence on civilization.** "The peculiar form of the M.," says Humboldt, "was very influential on the early limitation and later extension of Phœnician and Grecian voyages of discovery, of which the latter were long restricted to the *Ægean* and *Syrtic* basins. In the Homeric times, continental Asia was still an 'unknown land.' The Phœnicians first opened the Tyrrhenian basin W of Sicily, and navigators to Tartessus reached the pillars of Hercules. It should not be forgotten that Carthage was founded near the limits of the Tyrrhenian and Syrtic basins. The march of events, the direction of nautical undertakings, and changes in the possession of the empire of the sea, reacting on the enlargement of the sphere of ideas, have all been influenced by the physical configuration of coasts. A more richly varied and broken outline gives to the northern shore of the M. an advantage over the southern or Libyan shore, which, according to Strabo, was remarked by Eratosthenes. The three great peninsulas, the Iberian, the Italian, and the Hellenic, with their sinuous and deeply indented shores, form, in combination with the neighbouring islands and opposite coasts, many straits and isthmuses. The configuration of the continent and of the islands, the latter either severed from the main or volcanically elevated in lines, as if over long fissures, early led to geognostical views respecting eruptions, terrestrial revolutions, and overpourings of the swollen higher seas into those which were lower. The Euxine, the Dardanelles, the straits of Gades, and the M. with its many islands, were well fitted to give rise to the view of such a system of sluices. The Orphic Argonaut, who probably wrote in Christian times, wove antique legends into his song; he describes the breaking up of the ancient Lyktonia into several islands, when 'the dark-haired Poseidon, being wroth with Father Kronion, smote Lyktonia with the golden trident.' Similar phantasies, which indeed may often have arisen from imperfect knowledge of geographical circumstances, proceeded from the Alexandrian school, where cruci-  
dition, abounded, and a strong predilection was felt for antique legends. It is not necessary to determine here whether the myth of the Atlantis broken into fragments should be regarded as a distant and western reflex of that of Lyktonia, (as I think I



have elsewhere shown to be probable,) or whether, as Q. Müller considers, 'the destruction of Lyktonia (Leuconia) refers to the Samothracian tradition of a great flood, which had changed the form of that district.' But, as has already been often remarked, the circumstances which have most of all rendered the geographical position of the M. so beneficently favourable to the intercourse of nations, and the progressive extension of the knowledge of the world, are the neighbourhood of the peninsula of Asia Minor, projecting from the eastern continent; the numerous islands of the *Ægean*, which have formed a bridge for the passage of civilization; and the fissure between Arabia, Egypt, and Abyssinia, by which the great Indian ocean, under the name of the Arabian gulf or Red sea, advances so as to be only divided by a narrow isthmus from the delta of the Nile, and from the south-eastern coast of the M. By means of these geographical relations, the influence of the sea, as the 'uniting element,' showed itself in the increasing power of the Phœnicians, and subsequently also in that of the Hellenic nations, and in the rapid enlargement of the circle of ideas. Civilization in its earlier seats, in Egypt, on the Euphrates and the Tigris, in the Indian Pentapotamia, and in China, had been confined to the rich alluvial lands watered by wide rivers; but it was otherwise in Phœnicia and in Helles. The early impulse to maritime undertakings, which showed itself in the lively and mobile minds of the Greeks and especially of the Ionic branch, found a rich and varied field in the remarkable forms of the M., and in its position relatively to the oceans to the S and W."

**MEDJIBOJ**, an ancient town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Podolia, district and 12 m. WNW of Letitchev, on the l. bank of the Bug. Pop. 4,000. It is surrounded by marshes, and is also approachable by means of a bridge.

**MEDJURANI**, a town of Turkey in Europe, in Albania, in the sanj., and 40 m. ESE of Valona; on the r. bank of the Vojutza.

**MEDLAR-WITH-WESHAM**, a township in the p., and 2 m. N by W of Kirkham, Lancashire. Area 1,971 acres. Pop. in 1831, 242; in 1851, 170.

**MEDLERSTO**, an island of the gulf of Bothnia, in the prefecture of Western Bothnia, in N lat. 65° 14', and E long. 21° 51'.

**MEDLING**, or **MÖDLING**, a town of Austria, in the prov. of Lower Austria, regency and circle and 11 m. SW of Vienna, on the railway to Grätz. Pop. 3,500. It has a church and a common hall, both remarkable for their antiquity, and possesses manufactories of various woollen and cotton fabrics. A little to the W of the town, on a mountain, are the ruins of an ancient castle, which Leopold I. took from the Hungarians in 584, and in which, during the 12th and the early part of the 13th cent. was the residence of the archdukes of Austria.

**MEDMAN**, or **METTMANN**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of the Rhine, regency and 10 m. E of Düsseldorf, and circle of Elberfeld, on the Düsseldorf. Pop. 2,625. It has a Catholic and 2 other churches, and possesses manufactories of silk and woollen fabrics, velvet, and of iron-ware.

**MEDMENHAM**, a parish in Buckinghamshire, 3½ m. SW by W of Great Marlow, on the N bank of the Thames. Area 2,420 acres. Pop. in 1851, 401.

**MEDNIGUNGE**, a town of Hindostan, belonging to the king of Oude, in the prov. and 30 m. N of Allahabad, district and 39 m. ENE of Manicpur.

**MEDNOI**, or **COPPER ISLAND**, an island of Asiatic Russia, in the North Pacific, 180 m. from the E coast of Kamchatka, and 36 m. E of Eehring island, in N lat. 54° 40', and E long. 167° 50'. It is 36 m. in length from NW to SE, and 6 m. in breadth; and is inhabited. Its shores present, on nearly all sides, high rocky walls; and, on its W side is a mass of copper from which the island derives its name. It has two good harbours, into which two small rivers discharge themselves. Its shores abound with seals and sea-lions, and in winter sea-gulls and sea-swallows are extremely numerous.

**MEDO**, a small lake of Brazil, in the prov. of Bahia, to the S of the Rio-Jequitinhonha, with which it is connected by a natural canal.

**MEDOC**, a district of France, in the ancient prov. of Guienne, in the Bordelais, between the Garonne

and the ocean, now comprised in the dep. of the Gironde. Its capital is Lesparre. It is celebrated for its wines, forming the claret country *par excellence* of the Gironde, although until within a comparatively recent period the lands upon which its best grapes now ripen were arid and barren deserts. There are three estates in M., the wine grown upon which is of unrivalled quality—these are the Chateau-Margaux, Latour, and Lafitte. The soil upon which the Chateau-Margaux wine is grown consists of a thin layer of warm gravel upon a bed of *alios*. The products in average years are about 100 tonneaux, each tonneau containing 4 hogsheads. Of these, 80 are ordinarily reckoned as the highest-class wine, and have been sold at from 2,200 to 2,400 francs per tonneau. The second-class wine sells at some 300 f. beneath the price of the first growth. The estate of Chateau-Lafitte is situated near the small town of Paulliac. It yields annually 100 tonneaux of first-class, and from 20 to 30 of second-class wine. The exposure of the vineyard is easterly; the soil much the same as that of Margaux. Chateau-Latour lies in the parish of St. Lambert, in the com. of Paulliac. Its produce ranges from 70 to 90 tonneaux. The great proportion of these three high-priced and exquisitely-flavoured wines goes to England.—Also a fort in the dep. of the Gironde, cant. and 8 m. NE of Castelnau-de-Medoc, and 21 m. NNW of Bordeaux, on the l. bank of the Gironde, in a marshy plain. It was commenced in 1690 for the defence of the river, but still remains unfinished.

**MEDOKA**, a market-town of Turkey in Europe, in Servia, sanj., 53 m. SSE of Kruchovatz, and 20 m. NNE of Novo-Berda.

**MEDOLA**, a town of the duchy and district of Modena, 23 m. from the town of that name.

**MEDOLE**, a town of Austria in Lombardy, in the delegation and 20 m. NW of Mantua. Pop. 800.

**MEDOLINO**, a village of Austria, in the gov. of Trieste, on a bay of the same name, which lies to the E of Cape Promontore.

**MEDOMSLEY**, a chapelry in the p. of Lanchester, co. of Durham, 2½ m. N of Durham, on a branch of the Stanhope and Tyne railway. Area 1,823 acres. Pop. in 1831, 418; in 1851, 840.

**MEDONTE**, a township of Upper Canada, in the Simcoe district. It rises high in the interior, and is to a great extent hilly. Pop. in 1842, 548.

**MEDOS**, a small island of Spain, in Catalonia, in the prov. of Gerona, at the mouth of the Ter.

**MEDOUB**, a station of Nigritia, on the road from Darfur to Egypt, 135 m. from Kobbé. The surrounding district is well-cultivated.

**MEDRA**, a headland of the Sahara, to the NE of Cape Laguedo.

**MEDRANO**, a town of Spain, in Old Castile, in the prov. and partido, and 8 m. WSW of Logrono, in a mountainous locality. Pop. 700.

**MEDREAC**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Ile-et-Vilaine, cant. and 5 m. N of Montauban. Pop. 2,275.

**MEDROUSA**, or **MENDRAH**, a district of Tripoli, in Fezzan, 75 m. SSE of Muzuk, on the road from that town to Kouka. It contains several small lakes.

**MEDSTED**, a parish of the co. of Southampton, 3½ m. W by S of Alton. Area 2,811 acres. Pop. in 1831, 418; in 1851, 482.

**MEDUKHA**, a town of Arabia, in Yemen, in the district of Hachid and Bekil, 21 m. NE of Kharres, and 168 m. NNW of Sana.

**MEDUNA**, a river of Austria in Lombardy, in the prov. of Udine, which has its source to the W of Valvasone; runs SW; becomes navigable at Villanova, and throws itself into the Livenza, on the l.

bank, 3 m. SE of Porto-Buffole, and after a course of 24 m. It is liable to disastrous inundations.

**MEDVEDITCHI**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Minsk, district and 54 m. WSW of Sloutsk, and 48 m. ESE of Slonim.

**MEDVEJU**, a fort of Russia in Asia, in the military line of Ishim, in the prov. and 21 m. NW of Omsk, near the l. bank of the Irtysh.

**MEDVEJU - OSTROVA**, or **BEAR ISLANDS**, a group of islands in the Arctic ocean, near the coast of Asiatic Russia, in the prov. of Yakutsk, near the mouth of the Kolyma.

**MEDVIEDITZA**, a river of Russia in Europe, which has its source in the gov. and district of Saratov, and 45 m. N of the town of that name; flows past Petrovsk and Atkarsk; enters the gov. of the Don Cossacks; traverses the district of Oust-Medvieditza, and throws itself into the Don, by the l. bank, 6 m. above Oust-Medvieditza, after a course, in a generally SSW direction, of 360 m. Its principal affluents are the Bol, and, on the r., the Tersa. This river is to a great extent navigable. It has several German settlements and large Don Cossack towns on its banks.

**MEDVIENSKOI-KOLODEJ**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Kiev, district and 15 m. SSW of Bogouslav.

**MEDWAY**, a river chiefly of Kent, which besides many tributary rivulets, has four principal sources, one of which is in Kent, two belong to Sussex, and the fourth is in Surrey. The branch which enters Kent from Surrey rises in Blechingley p., and having been enlarged by several rills, flows past Eaton-bridge, Hever-castle, and Penshurst, below which it is joined by one of the branches rising in Sussex, and, increased by various smaller streams, proceeds through a beautiful country to Tonbridge. A little above that town, it separates for a short distance into five channels, three of which re-unite in the main stream below the town. Thence proceeding to Teyford-bridge and Yalding, this river receives the united waters of its two other principal branches; one of which flows from Watford forest in Sussex, and is swelled by the Bewle and Theyse rivulets; the other rises at Goldwell near Great Chart in Kent, receives several smaller streams in its progress, and is increased by the waters of the former branch above Huncton. From Yalding the M. flows in a winding direction to Maidstone; and thence in a singularly devious channel, gradually augmenting in depth and breadth, pursues its picturesque course to Rochester, where its scenery becomes eminently beautiful. Flowing thence towards Sheerness, it passes Chatham, Upnor-castle, and Gillingham-fort, during which it greatly increases in width, forming towards its efflux various islands, the largest of which, besides Sheppey and those adjoining, are named Bishop's marsh, North marsh, and Burntwick marsh. The main stream issues into the Thames estuary between the isle of Grain on the W, and Sheerness, on the isle of Sheppey, on the E, at the distance of 17 m. from Rochester; while an arm called the East Swale—which is navigable for vessels of 200 tons burden, and contains the navigable creeks of Faversham and Milton—separates Sheppey isle from the mainland by a circuitous route, before it falls into the mouth of the Thames. The Medway with its numerous tributary streams overspreads a surface of nearly 30 sq. m. in the very midst of Kent. The tide flows on it nearly as high as Maidstone; below which, all the way to Sheerness, its bed is so deep that line-of-battle-ships are moored in it when out of commission. The course of the river was first made further navigable for barges to Tonbridge about the middle of last cent.; but it has since been made

navigable to Penhurst-bridge, a further distance of about 5 m. It is well-stored with fish of various species, and was in former times celebrated for its salmon and sturgeon: the latter, in particular, were so abundant, that a considerable part of the revenues of the bishops of Rochester were derived from a duty levied on their sale. On the M., and in several of the creeks and waters belonging to it, are the celebrated oyster-fisheries of Rochester. At Milton-creek, in the East Swale, a capital of £10,000 is employed in stocking and storing the ground with young oysters and brood. The M. was called by the Britons *Vaga*,—a name descriptive of its very sinuous course or mazy wanderings. The Saxons altered this appellation to *Medwe*, of which the present name is a corruption. Immense layers of fragments of Roman pottery have been discovered of late years in some parts of the bed of this stream. They have as yet only been very partially explored, but they have been found within the p. of Gillingham, and again on the edge of the flat land or marshes towards the isle of Sheppey, and they have been discovered on every point which has yet been explored between these extremes, a distance of not less than 7 or 8 m. In the transverse direction, the site of the potteries extends as much as 3 m., and the bed is usually nearly a foot thick. There is no reason to doubt of their being the refuse of the kilns of potters, who, it seems, gradually moved along in the course of years, or rather of ages, using up the clay—which is peculiarly well-calculated for the purpose—and throwing their refuse and the broken and damaged pottery on the land which they had exhausted, until this extensive tract of ground became covered with it. The channel of the M. appears to have been then narrower than at present; and these marshes were at least not subject in the same manner as at present to the influx of the sea. The Romans left them, either when they left these potteries to seek some new site, or when Saxon invaders drove the inhabitants away, a mere wide field of broken pottery. This was gradually covered by alluvial soil to the depth of 2 or 3 ft.; at some subsequent period the sea has scooped this ground into creeks and channels, till it looks almost like a great honeycomb; and thus the bed of pottery was again brought to light. Its whole length is about 40 m.; and it is navigable as far as Canterbury. See *Stroze*.

**MEDWAY**, a township of Norfolk co., in the state of Massachusetts, U. S., 28 m. SW of Boston, watered by Charles river. Pop. in 1840, 2,043.—Also a village of Liberty co., in the state of Georgia, on the road from Savannah to Darien.

**MEDWISCH**, **MEDIASCH**, or **MEDGYES**, a stuhl or administrative division and town of Transylvania. The stuhl is bounded on the N by the comitat of Kockelburg; on the E by the stuhl of Schisburg and the comitat of Upper Weissenburg; on the S by the stuhls of Gross-Schenk and Leschkirch, and the comitat of Upper Weissenburg; and on the W by that of Lower W.; and comprises an area of 96 sq. m. It is covered with ramifications of the Carpathian mountains, and is watered by the Great Kockel. Wine forms its chief article of produce.—The town is 42 m. ENE of Carlsburg, and 30 m. NNE of Hermanstadt, in a valley on the l. bank of the Great Kockel. Pop. 6,000, chiefly Saxons and Wallachians. It is enclosed with a wall with 6 gates, and contains a Greek, a Lutheran, and a Calvinist church, 2 hospitals, a gymnasium, a normal school, and a printing establishment. This town is supposed by some to be the seat of the *Colonia Media* of the Romans; by others, to be the most ancient of the Saxon colonial establishments, of which the date is 1146.

**MEDYNSK**, a district and town of Russia in Eu-

rope, in the N part of the gov. of Kaluga. The district abounds in corn, timber, and cattle. It has several distilleries, a fine glass-work, a paper-mill, and 4 large manufactories of sail-cloth. Pop. 73,000. The town is 42 m. NNW of Kaluga, and 99 m. SW of Moscow, on the Medynka, an affluent of the Ougra. Pop. 2,000. It has 2 churches, and several tanneries. M. was erected into a town in 1776. In 1812, it was the scene of an engagement between the French and Russians.

**MEDZIBOR.** See **MITTELWALDE**.

**MEDZINAGURA**, a village of Poland, in the woiwodie of Cracow, obwod. and 6 m. NW of Kielce. In the environs are mines of copper, lead, and iron.

**MEDZIRJETCHÉ**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. and 60 m. SE of Grodno, district and 12 m. SE of Volkovisk.

**MEEADAY**, or **MYEDE**, a town of Burmah, in the district of Mraunapye, on the l. bank of the Irawaddi, 110 m. WNW of Taungu.

**MEEALEE**, a town of the Punjab, 37 m. E of Kala Bagh. It is a thriving place, and is said to have coal of fine quality in the vicinity.

**MEEANEE.** See **MEANI**.

**MEEAN-POOSHTEEN**, a village of Afghanistan, on the l. bank of the Helmund, 130 m. WSW of Hyderabad.

**MEEA-ROZAN**, a village of Sinde, near the W bank of the Indus, 31 m. SW of Mittun-Kote.

**MEEAWUL**, a town of the Punjab, to the E of the Chenab, and 25 m. W of Ramnuggur.

**MEEDEN**, a town of Holland, in the prov. and 18 m. SE of Groningen. Pop. 1,300.

**MEEDER**, a market-town of the grand-duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in the principality and 8 m. NW of Coburg, bail. and 5 m. ESE of Rodach. Pop. 600. It is well-built. In the vicinity are several iron-mines.

**MEEFFE**, a department of Belgium, in the prov. of Liege, and arrond. of Huy. Pop. 950.

**MEELBERG**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Limburg, and dep. of Pael. Pop. 319.

**MEELICK**, a parish of co. Galway, 2 m. SE of Eyrecourt. Area 4,292 acres. Pop. 1,002.—Also a parish of co. Mayo, 3 m. WSW of Swineford. Area 8,062 acres. Pop. 2,692.

**MEELMANE**, a village in the p. of Lisle, co. Cork.

**MEEN (SAINT)**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Ile-et-Vilaine, and arrond. of Montfort-sur-Meu. The cant. comprises 9 coms. Pop. in 1831, 10,125; in 1841, 10,502. The town is 12 m. WNW of Montfort. Pop. in 1841, 2,319. It contains the ruins of a fine abbey.

**MEEN-CHU**, a division and town of China, in the prov. of Sze-chuen. The div. comprises 5 districts. The town is in N lat. 31° 27' 36", E long. 104° 52' 30".

**MEEN-NING-TING**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Yun-nan, div. of Shun-ning-fu.

**MEEN-YANG-CHU**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Hu-pih, div. of Han-yang-fu, in N lat. 30° 12' 22", E long. 113° 11' 40".

**MEER**, a parish in the co. of the city and 5½ m. S by E of Lincoln. See **LINCOLN**.

**MEER.** See **MIR**.

**MEERFELD**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. of Treves, circle of Wittlich. Pop. 292.

**MEERHOF**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. of Minden, circle of Buren. Pop. 862.

**MEERHOLZ**, a town of Hesse-Cassel, 35 m. SW of Fulda, near the Kinzig.

**MEERHOUT**, a town of Belgium, in the prov. of Antwerp, 24 m. NE of Louvain. Pop. 3,387.

**MEERHOUTE**, a commune and village of Bel-

gium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, dep. of Oostacker. Pop. 552.

**MEERLE**, a canton and village of Belgium, in the prov. of Antwerp, arrond. of Turnhout. Pop. 1,105.

**MEERNACH**, a village of Saxe-Meiningen, in the bail. and 1 m. SW of Gräfenthal.

**MEERSCHÉ**, a commune and village of Belgium, in the prov. of Antwerp, dep. of Berchem. Pop. 643.

**MEERSCHTRAETE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, dep. of Laerne. Pop. 620.

**MEERSEN**, a town of Dutch Limburg, 9 m. NE of Maestricht, on the r. bank of the Geule. Pop. 2,008.—Also a village of Belgian Limburg, 3 m. E of Maestricht.

**MEERSTRAET**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, dep. of Hamme. Pop. 437.

**MEES (LES)**, a town of France, in the dep. of Basses-Alpes, 17 m. SW of Digne, near the l. bank of the Durance. Pop. 2,085.

**MEESDEN**, a parish of Hertfordshire, 5 m. SE of Barkway. Area 1,008 acres. Pop. 185.

**MEESIGER**, a town of France, in the reg. of Stettin, circle of Demmin. Pop. 381.

**MEESOW**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. of Stettin, circle of Regenwalde. Pop. 468.

**MEESWYSCK**, a commune of Belgian Limburg, in the cant. of Rockheim. Pop. 445.

**MEETKERKE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of W. Flanders, arrond. of Bruges. Pop. 455.

**MEETH**, a parish of Devon, 3 m. NNE of Hatherleigh. Area 2,479 acres. Pop. 333.

**MEFFERSDORF**, a village of Prussian Silesia, in the reg. of Leignitz. Pop. 716.

**MEFFI**, a village of Upper Guinea, on the Gold coast, 45 m. E of Dibbe.

**MEGALA**, a village of Tunis, 3 m. NE of Spaitla.

**MEGALI-KORA**, a town in the island of Samos, 24 m. SW of Skalanova. Pop. 1,000.

**MEGALO-KASTRON.** See **CANDIA**.

**MEGANISI**, a small rocky island in the Ionian sea, off the E coast of Santa Maura, from which it is separated by a narrow channel. It is about 6 m. in length, and 3 m. in breadth. It was anciently called *Thelabides*.

**MEGANOP (CAPE)**, a promontory on the S coast of the Crimea, in N lat. 44° 46', E long. 35° 6'.

**MEGANTICK**, a county and lake of Lower Canada, on the borders of New England. The co. has an area of 1,465 sq. m. Its centre is in N lat. 46° 5', W long. 71° 12'. It contains rich copper-deposits.—The lake is 9 m. in length, and 2 m. in average breadth, running deeply into the land in several bays. The scenery in the vicinity is picturesque.

**MEGARA**, a town of Greece, in the isthmus of Corinth, formerly of considerable extent, but now an insignificant village, having been depopulated and destroyed in the revolutionary war. It stands on an eminence, about 1 m. from the gulf of Egina, and 21 m. W of Athens.

**MEGASPILION**, or **MEGASPELIA**, a large monastery in the Morea, 30 m. ESE of Patras, and 6 m. NE of Calavrita.

**MEGE**, a village of Farsistan, in Persia, 10 m. S of Ispahan.

**MEGEN**, a small town of Holland, in N. Brabant, on the l. bank of the Maese, 15 m. NE of Bois-le-Duc.

**MEGEVE**, a town of Sardinia, in the div. of Savoy, and prov. of Fancigny, mandemento and 7 m. S of Sallanches. Pop. 2,800.

**MEGIASZO**, a town of Hungary, in the comitat of Zemplin, 44 m. SSW of Kaschau.

**MEGINGHERD**, a sanjak and town of Turkey in Asia, in the pash. and 60 m. ENE of Erzerum.

**MEGLIACINO**, a town of Sardinia, in the div.



and prov. and 30 m. NNW of Novara, mandemento and 1½ m. NNE of Orta, and on the E bank of the lake of that name. Pop. 860.

**MEGMAH** (El), a town of Arabia, in Nedjed, in the prov. of El Zedeir, 21 m. N of Jelajel.

**MEGNA**, a river of Hindostan, in the presidency of Bengal, and E part of the prov. of that name. It is formed by the junction of the Surnah and the Barak, which have their sources in the mountains running along the N and E frontiers of the Silhet district. The united stream, after a course of about 30 m., joins the Brahmaputra, in N lat. 24° 9'; and the Brahmaputra, although possessing a volume of water nearly ten times greater than the M., thence takes the name of the latter. From the point of confluence, the M. runs SSW; receives the Gomut from Tipperah, on the E, and on the W the Issamutty or Dulaseri, bringing the collected waters of the Luckiah, an offset of the Brahmaputra, the Attre, and likewise several offsets of the Ganges. Thus augmented, it swells into an expanse resembling an inland sea, and studded with islands. About 10 m. below the confluence of the Issamutty, it is joined by another branch of the Ganges, and in the remainder of its course is separated by only a narrow tract of land from the latter river. A few miles lower down, its channel contracts in width, and bends ESE, till it reaches 23° N lat., when it takes a S direction, and, after a total course, in a generally S direction, of 120 m., discharges itself by a wide embouchure into the bay of Bengal, and closely adjacent to the delta of the Ganges, with which it forms numerous interlacements. The muddy waters of these great streams form, on mingling with the sea, numerous banks and islands. Between these islands, the principal of which are Decan-Shabazpur, Hattia, and Sundip, the tide runs with great rapidity, and in the spring-tides forms what is called the Bore, a perpendicular influx of the sea, which is said to exceed sometimes the height of 12 ft.

**MEGO** (PULO), **TRISTE**, or **ILE-DE-RE-CIF**, a small uninhabited island of the Indian ocean, near the SW coast of Sumatra, in S lat. 4°, and E long. 101° 5'. It is surrounded by a coral reef, and in the centre has a lagune the banks of which possess some vegetation. Cocoa-palms abound on its coasts; but their produce, except when the island is visited by canoes from Sumatra, become the prey of squirrels and rats, which are here found in great numbers. The island takes the name of Triste, from the number of shipwrecks which have occurred on its coasts.

**MEGRAM**, a range of mountains in the Sahara, running WSW between Wady-Mezzeran and the river Wallem, and crossed by the road from Fezzan to Houssa.

**MEGRİ**, a town of Persia, in Armenia, on the l. bank of the Aras, 45 m. SSE of Nakhshivan. It was formerly a large place containing 5 churches and about 500 families. The environs produce wine and cotton.

**MEGRIN** (SAINT), a village of France, in the dep. of the Charente-Inferieure, cant. and 8 m. S of Archiac, and 8 m. E of Jonzac. Pop. 1,260.

**MEGRIT**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Côtes-du-Nord, cant. and 5 m. N of Broons, and 12 m. WNW of Dinan, on an affluent of the Arguenon. Pop. 1,623.

**MEGYER** (NAGY), a town of Hungary, in the comitat and 21 m. WNW of Comorn, and 15 m. NNE of Raab.

**MEGYES** (ARANYOS), or **ARANYOS**, a town of Hungary, in the comitat and 13 m. E of Szathmar. It has a fortress now in ruins.

**MEHADIA**, a town of Hungary, in the Military

Banat, and subdivision of Wallachia—Illyrian Banat, 15 m. N of Alt-Orschowa, and 87 m. SE of Temeswar, on the l. bank of the Biela-Recca, an affluent of the Caerna, in a defile, named from the importance of its position the key of Mehadia. Pop. 1,684, chiefly Wallachians and Germans. About a mile distant from this town are the celebrated Roman baths of Hercules, and at the adjacent village of Toplecz, on the Gerns, are the remains of a fine Roman aqueduct. M. was taken by the Turks in 1716 and destroyed. It was soon after repaired by the Imperialists; but it was again captured by the Turks, first in 1738, and again in 1789, and reduced to ruins.

**MEHAGNE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. and arrond. of Namur, watered by a river of the same name. Pop. 534.—The river has its source in the prov. and 9 m. NNW of Namur, and near the village of Mehagnoule; flows thence into the prov. of Liège, and joins the Meuse, on the l. bank, a little above Huy, and after a course, in a generally E direction, of 30 m.

**MEHAL**, a town of Little Tibet, in the district of Urna-Desa, on the l. bank of the Sutledge, 6 m. NE of Deba.

**MEHALLET-EL-KEBIR**, or **MAHALLET-EL-KEBIR**, a town of Lower Egypt, in the prov. of Garbich, of which it is the capital, 15 m. WSW of Mansurah, and 69 m. N of Cairo, near the W bank and on a branch of the Melig canal. Pop. 1,700. It is a large town, is the residence of a bey, and has a Coptic church. It has a cotton-spinning-mill, manufactories of sal-ammoniac, and possesses an active trade. It is the *Xois* or *Cynopolis* of the ancients.

**MEHANDITZA**, a district of Turkey in Europe, in the W part of Little Wallachia. Its chief town is Tchernetz.

**MEHANUDDY**. See **MAHANUDDY**.

**MEHARICOURT**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Somme, cant. and 2 m. SW of Rosieres. Pop. 1,092.

**MEHARRAKA**, or **MAHARRAKA**, a village and a ruinous temple in Nubia, in the country of the Kenu, near the l. bank of the Nile, and 45 m. NE of Derr. It is supposed by some to mark the site of the ancient *Hierosycaminon*.

**MEHAUJED**, a town of Arabia, in Yemen, 60 m. WSW of Kaukban. It is surrounded by a wall, and defended by a castle on an adjacent height.

**MEHBORN**, a village of the grand-duchy of Saxe-Weimar, in the bail. and 7 m. E of Eisenach, and 13 m. W of Gotha, on the r. bank of the Nesse. Pop. 210. It has a cotton-spinning-mill.

**MEHEDIAH**. See **MAHMORE**.

**MEHERIN**, a river of the state of Virginia, U. S., which has its source in Charlotte co.; runs E through several counties; enters North Carolina, and, after a course of 90 m., joins the Nottoway, on the r. bank, at Winton, to form the Chowan river.

**MEHERJAN**, **MEHRIDGAN**, or **ISFERAIN**, a town of Persia, in the prov. of Khorassan, 141 m. WNW of Mushed, in a fertile plain, and on the l. bank of a small river, the opposite side of which is defended by a fort. It has a mosque. The environs are noted for their pears.

**MEHET** (JEBEL), a mountain of Abyssinia, in the S part of the kingdom of Amhara, and prov. of Damot, on the r. bank of the Bahr-el-Azrek.

**MEHKUR**, a populous district of Hindostan, in the NW part of the prov. of Gundwana. It is mountainous, and contains numerous forts.

**MEHLAUKEN**, a village of Prussia, in the prov. of Königsberg, in the circle and to the E of Labiau. Pop. 150.

**MEHLEM**, a village of Prussia, in the regency of Cologne, on the Rhine, to the SE. of Bonn. Pop. 970.

**MEHLES**, a village of the duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in the principality and 22 m. S of Gotha, and bail. of Schwarzwald,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. WNW of Zella, and near the Gemeinbach. Pop. 1,706. It has manufactories of arms.

**MEHLSACK**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. and regency and 39 m. SSW of Königsberg, circle and 18 m. SE of Braunsberg. Pop. 3,030. It is enclosed by a wall, and has two suburbs, and 2 Catholic churches. It possesses manufactories of cloth and of hats, and several tanneries, and has a considerable trade in flax, yarn, and linen.

**MEHR**, a village of Sind, on the E bank of the Indus, opposite Lukki.

**MEHR-ABAD**, a village of Persia, in Farsistan, 9 m. SE of Aberkuh. It does not now contain above 50 families; but the ruins by which it is surrounded indicate its having formerly been a large town. The half of the produce of the village is claimed by the khan by whom it is governed.

**MEHRAH**, a district of Turkey in Asia, in the pash. and NW of Diarbekir. It is mountainous, and contains mines of copper. The Tigris has its source in this district.

**MEHRANA**, **MERANA**, or **MEERANA**, a town of Saxony, in the circle of Erzgebirge and seignory of Schönburg, 5 m. WNW of Glauchau, and 22 m. W of Chemnitz. Pop. 4,339. It has manufactories of fine woollen fabrics.

**MEHRAND**, or **MERANDE**, a town of Persia, in the prov. of Azerdijian, 45 m. ESE of Khoi, on an affluent of the Kuk-kana.

**MEHRENBURG**, a town of the duchy of Nassau, in the bail. and 6 m. NW of Weilburg, and 30 m. ENE of Coblenz. Pop. 590.

**MEHRING**, a village of Bavaria, in the circle of Upper Bavaria, on the Augsburg and Munich railway, and near the l. bank of the Danube, which is here crossed by a bridge. Pop. in 1838, 1,166. It has a paper-mill.

**MEHRINGEN**, a village of the duchy of Anhalt-Dessau, NW of Sandersleben, on the Wippa. Pop. 870.

**MEHUN**. See **PERIM**.

**MEHUN-SUR-YIVRE**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Cher, and arrond. of Bourges. The cant. comprises 10 com. Pop. in 1831, 8,132; in 1841, 8,726. The town is 11 m. NW of Bourges, on the l. bank of the Yivre or Evre, in a fertile plain. Pop. 3,333. It contains the ruins of the castle in which Charles VII. starved himself to death. It has extensive manufactories of pack-sheet.

**MEHWAS**, a district of Hindostan, in the N of Gujerat, between the Banass and the Runn. It comprises the districts of Kakreze, Neyer, and Therad.

**MEIACOSIMA ISLANDS**. See **TY-PIN-SHAK**.

**MEIA-PONTE**, a town of Brazil, in the prov. and 78 m. E of Goyaz, on the Rio-des-Almas. Pop. 8,000. It has oil-works, and distilleries of brandy; and conducts a considerable trade in pork.

**MEICHE**, a village of France, in the dep. of Doubs, 4 m. S of Santa-Hippolyte. Pop. 800.

**MEI-CHE-HEEN**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Shen-se, div. of Suy-tih-chu, 300 m. NNE of Se-gan-fu, on the l. bank of the Vou-tin-ho, in N lat.  $37^{\circ} 52'$ , and E long.  $110^{\circ}$ .

**MEI-CHU**, a division and town of China, in the dep. of Sze-chuen. The div. comprises 3 districts. The town is 54 m. S of Ching-tu-fu, in N lat.  $30^{\circ} 6'$ , and E long.  $103^{\circ} 52'$ .

**MEIDAM**, a river of Yemen, in Arabia, which

enters the Indian ocean to the W of Aden, after a S course of about 100 m.

**MEIDEVICH** (**OBBER** and **UNTER**), two villages of Prussia, in the reg. of Dusseldorf, circle of Duisburg. Pop. of Ober M. 424; of Unter M. 960.

**MEIDLING**. See **MEDLING**.

**MEIDUN**, a village of Egypt, in the prov. of Benisuef, 32 m. S of Cairo, near which is situated a pyramid of brick, and built in the form of five retreating steps or stages. It has been supposed to mark the site of the ancient *Nilopolis*.

**MEIENBURG**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of Brandenburg, near the borders of Mecklenburg, 10 m. N of Pritzwalk, on the Stepenitz. Pop. 1,454.

**MEIENDORF**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. of Magdeburg, circle of Wanzleben. Pop. 199.

**MEIERSBERG**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. and circle of Dusseldorf. Pop. 609.

**MEIG**, a river of Ross-shire, which falls into the Conan,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below Loch-Luichart, after a course of 16 m.

**MEIGLE**, a parish and village of Perthshire, 12 m. NW of Dundee, and 21 m. NNE of Perth, on the line of the Scottish Midland Junction railway. Pop. of p. in 1841, 728, of whom 457 were in the v., which is pleasantly situated on a small rivulet of the same name. It is an ancient place, and its churchyard contains the remains of a sepulchral monument of great antiquity. Pop. in 1851, 686.

**MEIGS**, a county in the SE part of Ohio, U. S. Area 425 sq. m. Pop. in 1841, 11,152; in 1851, 17,988. Its cap. is Chester.—Also a co. in the SE of Tennessee. Area 215 sq. m. Pop. in 1841, 4,794; in 1851, 4,839. Its cap. is Decatur.—Also a township in Adams co., Ohio. Pop. 1,063.

**MEIGS CREEK**, a river of Ohio, which runs into the Muskingum, 20 m. above Marietta.

**MEIH**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Ho-nan, div. and 72 m. WSW of Kae-fung-fu, in N lat.  $34^{\circ} 34'$ , E long.  $113^{\circ} 27'$ .—Also a district of Japan, in the island of Kiou-siou, and prov. of Tsikongo.

**MEI-HEEN**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Shen-se, div. of Fung-seang-fu, on the r. bank of the Hoe-ho, 66 m. W of Se-gan-fu, in N lat.  $34^{\circ} 13'$ , E long.  $107^{\circ} 50'$ .

**MEIH-YUN-HEEN**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Chih-le, div. of Pih-lu-ting, 42 m. NE of Peking, on the Pay-ho, in N lat.  $40^{\circ} 23' 30''$ , E long.  $116^{\circ} 52' 46''$ .

**MEIKLE-FERRY**, a strait of the Dornoch firth, about 2 m. in width, 3 m. WNW of Tain, in the direct line of the great North road to Wick and Thurso.

**MEIKLE** (**LOCH**), a small lake in the centre of Glenurquhart, in Inverness-shire.

**MEIKLEOUR**, a village in the p. of Caputh, in Perthshire,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. SW of Cupar-Angus.

**MEILEN**, a village of Switzerland, in the cant. and on the E side of the lake of Zurich, 3 m. SE of Zurich. Pop. 3,065.

**MEILHAN**, a town of France, in the dep. of Lot-et-Garonne, 6 m. WNW of Marmande. Pop. 2,293.

**MEI-LING**, a range of mountains in China, in the Nan-ling chain, on the frontiers of the provs. of Kiang-se and Kwang-tung. They rise to the height of about 1,065 yds. above sea-level. Towards the centre of the range are several houses, and a pagoda, in the latter of which is a statue of Confucius, and beneath, in a narrow pass through the mountain, is a gate which marks the boundaries of the provs.

**MEILLAC**, a village of France, in the dep. of Ille-et-Vilaine, cant. and 3 m. N of St. Amand. Pop. 1,200.

**MEILLANT**, a commune and town of France, in

the dep. of Cher, cant. and 5 m. of Saint Amand. Pop. 1,360.

MEILLONNAS, a town of France, in the dep. of Ain, near the source of the Chevron, 6 m. NE of Bourg. Pop. 1,250. It has extensive pottery-works, and coal is wrought in the vicinity.

MEIMAC, a town of France, in the dep. of Corrèze, between the rivers Trivunne and Luzège, 9 m. W of Ussel. Pop. 1,850.

MEIMUNNA, a village of Afghanistan, in the Hazareh territory, on an affluent of the Oxus, in N lat. 35° 50'.

MEIN, a large village of Arabia, in the district of Jafa or Jaffa, in the Wadi-Bahrein, 36 hours NW of Saghra. Pop. 1,500.

MEINAM. See MENAM.

MEINDER. See MENDERE.

MEINE, a small river of Prussia, in the duchy of Cleves, which falls into the Rhine near Emmerick.

MEINERSDORF, a village of Saxony, in the bail. and 4 m. E of Stollberg.

MEINERSEN, a village of Hanover, in the gov. of Luneburg, 30 m. ENE of Hanover. Pop. 400.

MEINERZHAGEN, a village of Prussia, in the reg. and 30 m. SW of Arensburg, on the Voline. Pop. 764.

MEININGEN. See SAXE-MEININGEN.

MEININGEN, a town of Germany, the cap. of the duchy of Saxe-Meiningen, situated amongst mountains on the r. bank of the river Werra, 33 m. E of Fulda. Pop. 5,500. It has been, since 1681, the residence of the dukes of Saxe-Meiningen, who have here a large castle, with a library of 25,000 vols., and a depot of archives. It contains a lyceum, a council-house, and a house for the meeting of the states. The principal manufactures are woollens, linens, and black crape. At a short distance, nearly at the foot of the Thüringerwald, are the Liebenstein springs, the waters of which are a strong chalybeate.

MEINSHEIM, a village of Würtemberg, in the bail. and 2 m. ESE of Brackenheim. Pop. 1,000.

MEIN-WATER, a rivulet of Annandale, in Dumfriesshire, which flows in a S and SW course of 9 m. to the Annan, which it joins to the S of Hoddam.

MEIR, a canton and village of Belgium, in the prov. of Brabant, arrond. of Turnhout. Pop. 1,514.

MEIRA (SANTA-MARIA DE), a town of Spain, in the prov. and 7 m. SW of Lugo. Pop. 1,600. It has manufactures of linen and woollen stuffs.

MEIRBEKE, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, dep. of Everghem. Pop. 894.

MEIRDINCKDORP, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, dep. of Vracene. Pop. 433.

MEIRE, a canton and village of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, arrond. of Alost. Pop. 2,406.

MEIRELBAKE, a canton and village of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, arrond. of Gand. Pop. 3,225.

MEIS, a sanjak of Asiatic Turkey, lying on the coast of the Mediterranean, between the parallels of 36° 7' and 37° 4' N. Its coasts are deeply indented by the bays of Makri, Castelorizo, and Finica; and the whole surface is rugged.—Its cap., which bears the same name, but is more commonly known as Castelorizo, lies on the gulf of Makri, 52 m. SW of Moglat, on the site of the ancient *Telmessus*. See CASTELORIZO.

MEISDORF, a village of Prussian Saxony, in the reg. and 52 m. NW of Merseburg, on the Selke. Pop. 174.

MEISENHEIM, a small town of Hesse-Homburg, situated on the Glan, in a district of the same name, 34 m. N of Deux-Ponts, and 30 m. WSW of Mentz. Pop. 2,200. The herrschaft of M. has an area of 348 German sq. m.

MEISNER, a basaltic mountain of Germany, in Lower Hesse, in the NE of the circle of Eschwege. Alt. 2,184 ft. above sea-level.

MEISSAC, a town of France, in the dep. of Corrèze, 9 m. S of Brives. Pop. 2,250. It has a large traffic in nut-oil.

MEISSAU, a village of Austria, in the circle and 28 m. NW of Kornenburg. Pop. 694.

MEISSEN, or MISNIA, a circle of Saxony, extending along both sides of the Elbe, from Bohemia on the S, to Prussian Saxony on the N. A considerable part of it was ceded to Prussia at the congress of Vienna in 1815, but it has still an area of 1,600 sq. m., with 298,000 inhabitants. It is one of the most populous and best cultivated parts of the kingdom; it contains also the principal manufactories of Saxony, whether in woollen, linen, or cotton. Dresden, the capital of the kingdom, lies within the limits of this circle.—The town of M., the capital of the former margraviate and circle, stands on the l. bank of the Elbe, where it receives the Meissa, 14 m. WNW of Dresden, in one of the most fertile and beautiful valleys of Saxony. Pop. 7,750. It is divided into an upper and a middle town, and the suburb. On a vast rock on the Elbe, 80 ft. in height, stand the remains of an ancient castle, built by Henry I.; and on the neighbouring rock of Afra, the ancient monastery of that name. The chief structures in the town are the cathedral, a fine Gothic building, the chapter-house, a picturesque stadthaus, and a covered bridge over the Elbe. M. is best known for its state porcelain works, which were removed to this place from Dresden in 1710, the clay being found in the neighbourhood. The establishment for this manufacture occupies the fine old castle: indeed, the town itself "has all the beauty of site, and suburbs, and architectural character, which the mother-city wants."

MEISSEN (UPPER and LOWER), two villages of Hesse-Cassel, in the bail. of Zierenberg.

MEISTRATZHEIM, a village of France, in the dep. of Bas-Rhin, cant. of Oberehnheim, on the l. bank of the Elgers. Pop. 1,500.

MEI-TAN-HEEN, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Kwei-chu, div. of Ping-yue-chu, 120 m. NNE of Kwei-yang-fu, in N lat. 27° 40'.

MEIVAR. See MEWAR.

MEJA, a river of Russia, which rises in the gov. of Smolensk, and flows SW to the S. Dwina, which it joins on the l. bank, near Velitsch, after a course of 120 m.

MEJAN, or MEYON, a rocky island in the Molucca archipelago, in N lat. 1° 23', E long. 126° 15'.

MEJERDAH, or MAJERDAH, a large river of Tunis, the *Bagrada* of the ancients, formed by the confluence of a number of streams descending from the Atlas. It runs in a N direction through the W part of the territory of Tunis, to about the parallel of 36° 10', where it turns NE; and falls into the Mediterranean at Porto-Farina. The country through which it flows in the lower part of its course is level, and presents a deep light sandy soil, in consequence of which it is deeply impregnated with soil, and presents the same discoloured aspect as the Nile. Near its mouth is a wide plain, sprinkled over with lakes, which have probably been formed by the inundations of the river.

MEJERIV, a town of Russia, in Podolia, on the l. bank of the Riv. 18 m. S of Litin.

MEJORADA, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 12 m. E of Madrid, near the l. bank of the Henares. Pop. 550.—Also a town in the prov. and 45 m. W of Toledo. Pop. 890.

MEKAM-ALI, a village of Irak-Arabi, on the Euphrates, opposite to Bassora.

MEKAMI, a river of Nigritia, which rises in the



Zeg-Zeg territory, and flows SW to the Quorra, 18 m. N of Fandah.

**MEKAN-SELASSE**, a town of Abyssinia, in the state of Shog, 210 m. SE of Gondar.

**MEKEHOAN**, a small seaport of Oman, in Arabia, on the Persian gulf, 45 m. WSW of Julfa.

**MEKONG**. See **MENAM-KONG**.

**MEKRAN**, a large maritime province, forming the central and S part of Beluchistan, and lying between the parallels of 25° and 30° N. On the N it is separated by a tract of desert from Afghanistan; on the E it has the provs. of Sarawan, Jalowan, and Lus; on the S the Indian ocean; on the W the provs. of Bushkurd and Kohistan. The northern and inland part is separated from the maritime district by a range of mountains. A plain, seldom more than 8 or 10 m. in breadth, intervenes between the mountains and the sea. On this plain there is excellent pasturage; and when the rainy season is favourable, rice, dates, wheat, barley, joari, and cotton, are produced. The prov. is occupied by a number of independent chiefs, whose power and extent of territory are continually fluctuating; and who profess political allegiance to the khan of Khelat, to Muscat, or to Persia, as for the moment best suits their own interest. The whole force of the country may amount to about 25,000 men; but in its present state it would be impossible to induce these to act together. The present capital is Kej or Kedje. See **BELUCHISTAN**.

**MEL**, an island off the coast of Brazil, in S lat. 25° 32' 43".—Also a town of Austrian Lombardy, 9 m. SW of Belluno, near the l. bank of the Piave.

**MELADA**. See **MELEDA**.

**MELAGUES**, a village of France, in the dep. of Aveyron, cant. and 9 m. SE of Pont-de-Carnars. Pop. 1,300.

**MELAH**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Ajmir, in N lat. 25° 40'.

**MELAN**, a village of France, in the dep. of Morbihan, cant. and 4 m. from Faouet. Pop. 1,400.

**MELANO**, or **MELENA** (CAPE), the NW extremity of the island of Chios, in N lat. 38° 25'.

**MELASGHIRD**, a town of Asiatic Turkey, 80 m. SE of Erzerum, on the Murad-chai.

**MELASSA**, or **MILESS**, a town of Asiatic Turkey, called anciently *Mylassa*. It is situated in a fertile plain, in the sanjak of Mentesh, 80 m. S of Smyrna, and 12 m. E of the gulf of Hassan-Kalesi.

**MELAULAKO**, a small river of Thessaly, which flows into the gulf of Salonica, a little to the NE of Mount Ossa.

**MELAY**, or **MESLAY**, a town of France, in the dep. of Mayenne, 15 m. SE of Laval. Pop. 1,932.—Also a village in the dep. of Haute-Marne, cant. and 6 m. SSE of Bourbonne.—Also a town in the dep. of Saône-et-Loire, cant. and 4 m. S of Marigny. Pop. 1,650.

**MELAZZO**, or **MILAZZO**, the ancient *Mylæ*, a seaport of Sicily, in the Val-di-Demona, on the N coast of the island, 20 m. W of Messina. Pop. 6,500. It is built on a promontory which forms a well-sheltered bay, the *Basilicus sinus* of the ancients, capable of containing a large fleet. The town is divided into two parts,—one situated on the promontory, and strongly fortified,—the other at the harbour, near the bottom of the bay. The trade of the place consists in the export of wine, olives, and olive oil; and is carried on chiefly with Marseilles, Leghorn, and Genoa. The tunny fishery is considerable. The plain of M., covered with villages and groves of olives and orange trees, and bounded by the lofty mountains of Pelorus, exhibits a scene of picturesque beauty. In the war of 1719, this town was unsuccessfully besieged by the Spaniards.

**MELBECKS**, a township in the p. of Grinton, N.

V.

R. of Yorkshire, 12 m. W by S of Richmond. Area 6,820 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,455; in 1841, 1,633.

**MELBOURN**, a parish in the co. of Cambridge, 10 m. S by W of Cambridge. Area 4,688 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,474; in 1851, 1,931.—Also a township in the p. of Thornton, E. R. of Yorkshire, 4½ m. SW of Pocklington. Area 3,130 acres. Pop. 535.

**MELBOURNE**, a parish in Derbyshire, 7½ m. SE by S of Derby, on the banks of the Trent. Area 3,290 acres. Pop. in 1831, 2,301; in 1851, 2,680.—The family of Lamb derive the title of Viscount from this place, which is one of the polling-stations in the election of the members for the S division of the co.

**MELBOURNE**, the capital of the new colony of Victoria, in S. Australia, situated in the co. of Bourke, and p. of Melbourne, near the mouth of the Yarra-Yarra river, in S lat. 37° 48' 6", E long. 144° 57' 7", 587 m. SSW of Sydney, at the upper end of the land-locked bay of Port Philip. It was founded by Sir Richard Bourke in May, 1837, and in January 1838 did not contain above 1,000 inhabitants; in 1846 its pop. was 10,945; and in 1851, 23,143. Its streets are broad and regular, all running at right angles to each other; and its houses are all either of brick, from an excellent clay found in the vicinity, or of stone. The principal part of the town is laid out in a low fertile valley, the rich soil of which, extending with a gentle slope from the river banks, affords a fine site for gardens; while the extreme ends of the town are carried over two rising and picturesque eminences. It now extends upwards of 2 m. along the river, with a breadth of 1 m. It has numerous churches, several club-houses and hotels, 4 banks, a theatre, a court-house and government-offices, a college, and numerous steam flour mills, boiling-down establishments, and iron and brass foundries. There are botanical gardens in the vicinity. It is the see of an Episcopalian bishop; and in 1851 no fewer than 8 churches were in course of erection in the town, in addition to those already existing. The supply of spring water is somewhat limited; but fresh water is abundant, as the town has been built just at the falls of the river, above which the water is generally fresh and drinkable, although vessels anchor in salt water right before the windows of the houses in M. There is depth of water for men-of-war as far up as Williamstown, near the mouth of the Yarra; but vessels drawing above 8 or 9 ft. of water cannot come up to the wharves of M. Although the distance across the promontory to the bay is not more than 2 m., yet by the river it is nearly 8 m. The banks of the Yarra are low, and covered with a small underwood. M. communicates daily by steamers with Geelong, 45 m. distant, on the W side of the bay; it has also regular steam-communication with Sydney, Launceston, and Hobart-town. A bill has been introduced in the Victoria legislature for a railway to run from M. to Mount Alexander; and it has been proposed to connect M. with the port at Hobson's bay by a short line. A scheme is also before the New South Wales legislature for a railway from Sydney to M.—The recent commercial history of M., and of the colony of Victoria generally, has been characterised as "the very romance of the ledger,—the poetry of the counting-house." On the 1st of July 1851, the colony of Victoria commenced its independent career. This in itself was an auspicious event; but it was speedily thrown into the shade by the discovery of gold at Anderson's creek, 16 m. to the E of Melbourne, and soon after in richer profusion at Ballarat and Mount Alexander. The amount of gold exported from M. and from Geelong to England from the date of the first discoveries up to 1st July 1852 was 1,265,640 ounces, or about £5,000,000; and even of the export from New South Wales and

N

from Adelaide a considerable portion has been furnished from the Victoria diggings. Gold has been discovered on the Yarra, 4 m. from M. It has also been found in the very heart of M., in a bed of dark quartz, about 15 inches below the surface, which it is expected will prove productive. Of the Victoria diggings, 16 m. from M., it is said that the most productive spots were those where the slate formation abounded, from the interstices of which several small nuggets had been extracted. The slate averaged about 2 ft. from the surface, and the lower the miner penetrated the more successful he proved. Mr. Westgarth has made a report, in his capacity of president of the M. chamber of commerce, in which the surprising growth of the colony is stated with great minuteness of detail. In 1851 its imports rose from £745,000 in value to £1,056,000; the exports from £755,000 in 1849 to £1,423,000 in 1851. In Sept. 1851 no gold had been exported from Victoria; in the six months next ensuing 563,471 ounces of gold were shipped, at M. chiefly, the greater part of it for London. Although at the present time, amongst gold-producing countries, California stands pre-eminent, being said to have produced in 1851 a sum scarce less than £15,000,000, Victoria is only second to it in productiveness, and yields apparently a larger quantity than the average of Russia, which is estimated at £4,000,000 per annum. Vast masses of people have continued to congregate round those spots which produced most gold, and the diggings of Mount Alexander swarmed with men and families to the number of 50,000 at least. Up to February 1852 upwards of £30,000 had been received as payment for licenses issued to the miners; and the quantity of wool exported during the last closed season has been as great as ever. In 1845 the census of Victoria gave a total of nearly 33,000; it now falls little short of 115,000. "Even prior to the discovery of her gold fields," Mr. Westgarth says, in his very able report, "the export produce of Victoria was proportionately larger than that which any other of our colonies has exhibited. For the year 1850, for example, when the value of colonial produce exported was £1,042,000, and the average population about 70,000 souls, we have an export at the rate of nearly £15 per head, which, for every person in the colony, gives a power for the introduction of all kinds of necessities that must effectually promote at once the business of the colony and the resources and enjoyments of its society. Since 1850 the gold produce, which begins to affect our official figures on the export lists towards the end of the following year, has largely increased this amount, threatening us in fact with a plethora of wealth, which, in the unsettlement of our regular industry, caused by the attractions of the diggings, may leave us for a time perhaps losers in a social point of view by the present grand developments. The commercial returns for the year 1851, in connection with a comparison for previous years, are set forth in the following abstracts:—

I. Table exhibiting the Progress of the colony of Victoria from 1844 to 1851 inclusive:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Population.
1844	£151,000	£237,000	24,000
1845	248,000	464,000	28,000
1846	316,000	425,000	34,000
1847	438,000	669,000	42,000
1848	374,000	675,000	50,000
1849	480,000	755,000	60,000
1850	745,000	1,042,000	70,000
1851	1,056,000	1,423,000	82,000

II. Table exhibiting the quantity of the principal articles of export from the colony of Victoria for the years 1844, 1847, and 1851:

	1844.	1847.	1851.
Beef, tons	284	867	1,391½
Cattle, number	2,435	6,057	6,281

Sheep, number	44,515	54,535	69,224
Tallow, tons	492	561	4,223
Wool, lb.	4,326,229	10,210,038	16,345,468
Gold, oz.	...	...	145,137

The apparent falling off in the quantity of wool for 1851, as compared with the previous year, is occasioned," Mr. Westgarth remarks, "by the lateness of the shipping of the wool this season, as compared with previous years, so that the usual proportion of the last clip has not been exported prior to January last. The official year terminates in the midst of the wool-shipping season, an arrangement inconvenient as regards the export-produce, in not exhibiting so exactly as might otherwise be done in this particular the annual progress of the colony." See articles PORT-PHILIP and VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, a county of Western Australia, bounded on the E by Glenelg, on the S by Twin co., and on the W by the sea; and watered by the rivers Moore, Smith, and Hill.

MELBOURNE (MOUNT); a very lofty mountain on the coast of the recently-discovered Antarctic continent, in S lat. 74° 25', E long. 164° 10'. It has a general and striking resemblance to Mount Etna; but its elevation, Sir James Ross conceives, must be very much greater than that of the Sicilian mountain.

MELBURY-ABBAS, a parish in Dorset, 2½ m. SE by S of Shaftesbury. Area 2,276 acres. Pop. in 1831, 354; in 1851, 444.

MELBURY-BUBB, a parish in Dorset, 6½ m. S by W of Sherborne. Area 1,227 acres. Pop. in 1831, 121; in 1851, 157.

MELBURY-OSMOND, a parish in Dorset, 6½ m. SW by S of Sherborne. Area 1,192 acres. Pop. in 1831, 380; in 1851, 364.

MELBURY-SAMPFORD, a parish in Dorset, 6½ m. NW by W of Cerne. Area 1,024 acres. Pop. in 1831, 53; in 1851, 55.

MELCAUWEN, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Antwerp, and dep. of Berlaer. Pop. 500.

MELCHBOURN, a parish in Bedfordshire, 5 m. ESE of Higham-Ferrers. Area 2,574 acres. Pop. in 1831, 227; in 1851, 290.

MELCHINGEN, a town of the principality of Hohenzollern-Hechingen, 9 m. ENE of Hechingen, on the L. bank of the Lauchart. Pop. 610.

MELCHNAU, a parish and village of Switzerland, in the cant. of Berne and amt of Aarwangen. Pop. 3,399.

MELCHTHAL, a valley of Switzerland, in the S part of the cant. of Unterwalden, and district of Obwald. It is about 6 m. in length from N to S, and 2 m. in breadth; and is watered by the Melch, which joins the Aa below Sarnen. It is noted for its cheese. The mountains by which it is enclosed rise high, and are chiefly calcareous, resting on argillaceous schist. They contain marble and iron. The latter is wrought at Muhlthal, on the opposite side of the mountain. The valley is noted as the residence of Arnold-de-Melchthal, one of the three founders of the Confederation, and also of the hermit Nicolas-de-Flüe, by whom the league, when threatened with rupture, was cemented.

MELCKWESER, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Brabant and arrond. of Louvain. Pop. 314.

MELCOMBE-HORSEY, a parish in Dorchester, 9 m. NE of Dorchester. Area 2,151 acres. Pop. 191.

MELCOMBE-REGIS. See WEYMOUTH.

MELDAL, a parish of Norway, in the bail. of South Drontheim, 33 m. SW of Drontheim. Pop. 4,261. It has several copper-works.

MELDEN, a department of Belgium, in the prov. of East Flanders, and arrond. of Audenarde, watered by the Schelde. Pop. 1,596.

**MELDERSTEIN**, a village of Sweden, in North Bothnia. It has extensive foundries.

**MELDERT**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of East Flanders, and arrond. of Termonde. Pop. of dep. 1,870; of village 328.—Also a dep. and com. in the prov. of Brabant and arrond. of Louvain. Pop. of dep. 963; of com. 536.—Also a dep. and com. in the prov. of Limburg and arrond. of Hasselt, watered by the Zwarte-Beek. Pop. 705.

**MELDOLA**, a town of the Pontifical states, in the legation and 8 m. S of Forlì, on the l. bank of the Ronco. Pop. 4,400.

**MELDON**, a parish of Northumberland, 5 m. W by S of Morpeth. Area 993 acres. Pop. 144.

**MELDORF**, or **MELDORP**, a town of Denmark, in the district called South Ditmarsch, on the river Miele, 50 m. NW of Hamburg. Pop. 2,000.

**MELDRETH**, a parish of Cambridgeshire,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N by W of Royston. Area 2,000 acres. Pop. 776.

**MELDRUM**, a parish of Aberdeenshire. Pop. 1,873, of whom 1,102 were in the town of Old M., which is situated on the road from Aberdeen to Banff,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  m. NW of Aberdeen; in 1851, 2,002.

**MELECK**, a headland of Turkey in Europe, on the N coast of the island of Candia, sanj. and 11 m. NE of La Canée, in N lat.  $35^{\circ} 55'$ , and E long.  $24^{\circ} 8'$ .

**MELEDA**, **MILET**, or **MLJETT**, an island of Austria, in the Adriatic, on the coast of Dalmatia, in the circle and 17 m. WNW of Ragusa, separated from the peninsula of Sabioncello by a channel of the same name, 3 m. in width at its narrowest point. The E extremity of the island is in N lat.  $42^{\circ} 42' 20''$ , and E long.  $17^{\circ} 46' 40''$ ; the W, in N lat.  $42^{\circ} 47' 50''$ , and E long.  $17^{\circ} 18' 30''$ . It is 24 m. in length from E to W, and about 5 m. across its widest part. The coasts present several commodious bays, but, towards the W extremity especially, are incumbered with islets and reefs. The sea breaks with great violence on the S coast. The best and most commodious anchorage is to be found in the channel of Meleda. The surface of the island is bristled with mountains to a great extent arid, and intersected by numerous valleys. The latter, the principal of which is Babinopoglie, nearly 3 m. in length, are fertile, but ill-cultivated; and the quantity of oats, maize, and millet scarcely suffices for three months' supply to the inhabitants, who are about 900 in number. Their only other productions are pot-herbs, oil, and fruit, the latter including water-melons, figs, pomegranates and almonds. The vine thrives well also, and the mulberry is grown to some extent. Dates and citron are frequently found in the gardens. Maritime pines and oaks are common, and among the shrubs the mastic and turpentine trees, the myrtle and cistus are frequently to be met with. Large flocks of cattle, goats, and sheep find pasturage on the mountains, and the culture of silk-worms and bees form also an important branch of industry. The viper and lizard are common. The tunny fish, the ray, and the sardine abound on the coast; and near Porto-Ingannatone is a coral-fishery. With the exception of iron in small quantities, and lime, the island possesses no minerals. Its exports consist chiefly in wood, silk, wine in small quantities, brandy, cheese, honey, fish, sheep, and wool. It contains several villages or hamlets, of which Babinopoglie is the chief. Meleda is the ancient *Melita*, and supposed by some to be the scene of the shipwreck of Saint Paul. It formerly possessed a rich Benedictine abbey, situated on an island of Lago-Grande, a lagune which communicates by a narrow channel with the sea.

**MELEGNANO**, or **MARIGNANO**, a district and town of Austria in Lombardy, in the gov. and deleg.

of Milan. The district comprises 26 com., and 11,334 inhabitants. The town is 11 m. SE of Milan, and 10 m. WNW of Lodi, on the Lambro, which is here crossed by a fine stone-bridge. Pop. 4,000. In the middle age this town was fortified. In 1239 it was destroyed by Frederick II., but was soon after rebuilt.—A peace was concluded here between the Guelfs and Ghibellines in 1279. A memorable battle was fought here between the Swiss and the duke of Milan and Francis I., in 1515.

**MELEI**, a district of Eastern Circassia, on the N side of the Caucasus. The Argun has its source in this district.

**MELE'KE'S** (**POKROVSKOE'** and **STAROI**), villages of Russia in Europe, in the gov. and 48 m. E of Simbirsk, district of Stavropol, near the Melékés, a small affluent of the Bolchoi-Tcheremchan. It has several distilleries of brandy.

**MELEKHOVSKAIA**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of the Don Cossacks, and district of Donetz, 27 m. NE of Tcherkask, on the r. bank of the Don.

**MELEN**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. and arrond. of Liege. Pop. 672.

**MELÉNIK**, a town of European Turkey, 60 m. SE of Ghiustendil.

**MELENKI**, a town of Russia, in the gov. and 68 m. SE of Vladimir, on the l. bank of the Unja. It has manufactories of glass and hardware. Pop. 5,685.

**MELERAY**, a village of France, in the dep. of Sarthe, cant. of Montmirail. Pop. 1,406.

**MELES**. See **MENOVGHAT**.

**MELESSE**, a commune and village of France, in the dep. of Ille-et-Vilaine, cant. of Saint Aubin, 9 m. N of Rennes. Pop. 2,808.

**MELE-SUR-SARTHE** (**LE**), a town of France, in the dep. of Orne, 9 m. W of Mortagne, on the r. bank of the Sarthe. Pop. 1,500.

**MELETEKUNK**, a river of New Jersey, U. S., which runs into the Atlantic in N lat.  $40^{\circ} 5'$ .

**MELETITCHI**, a town of Russia, in the gov. and 96 m. WSW of Grodno.

**MELEZZA**, a circle and village of Switzerland, in the cant. of Ticino, watered by a stream of the same name, which joins the Maggia near Locarno.

**MELFA**, a small river of Naples, in the Terra-di-Lavoro, which enters the Garigliano. It is the *Melfes* of the Itineraries.

**MELFI**. See **AMALFI**.

**MELFI**, a considerable town of Naples, in the Basilicata, 34 m. S of Foggia—pop. 8,400—not far from the river Ofanto, the ancient *Aufidus*. It contains several churches and monasteries, and is the seat of a bishop. On the 14th of August, 1851, this city was terribly devastated by an earthquake, which destroyed the cathedral and the archbishop's palace, the college, the barracks, and upwards of 160 houses.

**MELFORD** (**LONG**), a village and parish of Suffolk, situated near the river Stour, 19 m. W by N of Ipswich. Area of p. 5,185 acres. Pop. in 1841, 2,514; in 1851, 2,587. Silk-weaving is carried on here to some extent.

**MELGAÇO**, a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Minho, and on the l. bank of the Minho, 38 m. NE of Braja. Pop. 831.—Also a town of Brazil, in the prov. and 168 m. SW of Para. Pop. 3,500.

**MELGAM**, or **MELGUNS**, a river of Forfarshire, which falls into the Isla under the walls of Airly castle.

**MELGAR-DE-ANIBA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 45 m. ENE of Valladolid, on the l. bank of the Cea.

**MELGAR-DE-FERNAMENTAL**, a small town of Spain, in the prov. and 32 m. NW of Burgos, near the l. bank of the Pisuerga. Pop. 2,700.



**MELGAR-DE-YASO**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 27 m. NNE of Palencia, on the l. bank of the Pisuergra. Pop. 600.

**MELHABA**, a town of Tripoli, on the gulf of Sidra, 150 m. ESE of Tripoli.

**MELHERUS**, a parish and village of Norway, 12 m. SSW of Drontheim. Pop. 4,000.

**MELICHIA**, a town in the island of Corfu, 15 m. SSE of Corfu.

**MELICI**, a town of Sicily, in the prov. and 27 WSW of Messina.

**MELIDA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 21 m. SSE of Pampeluna, on the l. bank of the Aragon.

**MELIDEN**, a parish of Flintshire,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. N by E of St. Asaph. Pop. in 1831, 720; in 1851, 1,209.

**MELIDILLA**, a village of Tripoli, in the oases and 15 m. E of Anjelah.

**MELI-H-HEEN**, a district and town of China, in the prov. of Yun-nan, div. of Kwan-se-chu, in N lat.  $24^{\circ} 30'$ , E long.  $103^{\circ} 32'$ .

**MELI-H-LA-GANG**, a district of Tibet, in the SE part of the prov. of Kham, near the Chinese frontier.

**MELILLA**, or **RUSADIR**, a seaport on the coast of Morocco, but belonging to Spain, on the coast of the Mediterranean, in N lat.  $35^{\circ} 8' 15''$ , facing Almeria. It was taken by the Spaniards in the 15th cent., and has set at defiance all the attempts of the Moors to obtain possession of it. Its name is derived from the honey in its neighbourhood, which is still plentiful and excellent. It occupies a peninsula united to the continent by an isthmus of rocks 121 varas in length, and 95 in breadth, and having an elevation above the level of the sea of 35 varas. During the last cent. it was fortified with fresh works. The N front of the place is inaccessible, so high and steep is the rock which defends it on that side. A parapet 3 ft. thick, defended by a large elliptical tower, guards it on the E; the S angle is protected by a cylindrical parapet called Las Cabras; and fronting the W stands the gate of the fortress, with the large tower of St. James. On this side it communicates by a covered way with the exterior fortifications. Soft water is not scarce at M., and fills a number of shell-proof cisterns capable of containing upwards of 30,000 quintals of water. The climate is extremely warm. The pop. of this presidio, joined to that of the Penon-de-Velez and of Alhucemas, amounts, according to the latest returns, to 2,700 inhabitants, including non-residents. At a short distance, within cannon-shot, is a small port capable of receiving vessels of inconsiderable tonnage such as xebecs and galleons. —The three Zafferin islands, which were lately taken possession of by the Spaniards, lie in M. bay, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the shore. They are very small and near to each other. The western island is the largest and highest, being about 400 ft. above the level of the sea; its length is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., and it is separated from the middle island by a channel about a  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. broad. The middle island is about 120 ft. above the sea, and is nearly round, having a deep and safe channel separating it from the eastern island. Their structure is granitic, having a thin bed of earth on which a few plants grow. They are all destitute of water, and are very rugged and uneven; the neighbourhood abounds in fish, and the rocks are covered with shell-fish of a large kind. These islands offer a good anchorage in 6 or 7 fath., within a cable-length of the shore, with a bottom of mud and clay. The western island has been named 'Congress'; the middle island has received the name of 'Isabella II.'; and the eastern island that of 'King.'

**MELINADO**, a village of the island of Zante, 8 m. WSW of Zante.

**MELINDA**, a kingdom of Eastern Africa, with a

cap. of the same name, on the coast, to the SW of Brava, and N of Zanguebar, watered by the Grande-Riviere, the Jumba-Fumbu, the Quilimancy, and the Quelifi. —The cap., which stands in S lat.  $3^{\circ} 15'$ , E long.  $40^{\circ} 5'$ , is a large and handsome town, with houses built of stone, and numerous mosques. The churches and other buildings erected by the Portuguese while in possession of it are now in ruins. The anchorage is at some distance from the town, and the coast is shallow and beset with rocks and shelves; yet it is the seat of considerable trade, being resorted to by vessels from the Red sea, Persia, and the northern parts of India. The exports consist of gold, ivory, copper, wax, and drugs, brought from the interior by caravans, in exchange for which silks, cottons, linen cloths, and European commodities are received. Cattle and other articles of provision may be had; but the port is seldom touched at by European vessels, the trade being entirely in the hands of the natives. The immediate vicinity of the town consists of a beautiful plain covered with gardens abounding in every species of fruit, particularly citrons and oranges. The interior of the country has not been explored by Europeans. — Vasco de Gama, after doubling the Cape, sailed along the African shore till he arrived here, where he was courteously received, and supplied with pilots to conduct him across the Indian ocean to Malabar. Cabral and several of his successors met with treatment equally friendly. Ultimately M. became one of numerous tributaries, till about 1698, when it was wrested from them by the Arabs, in whose power it has ever since remained.

**MELINDA**, one of the Querimba islands, in the Indian sea, in S lat.  $10^{\circ} 30'$ .

**MELINE**, a parish in Pembrokeshire, 6 m. SW by S of Cardigan. Pop. in 1851, 474.

**MELIPILA**, a province of Chili, bounded on the N by Quillota; on the E by Mapocha; on the S by the river Mapo, which divides it from Rancagua; and on the W by the sea. It is of small extent upon the coast, but is about 25 leagues from E to W. Its rivers are the Mapocha and the Poangue. It abounds with wine and grain. Its cap. is Logrono.

**MELISEY**, a town of France, in the dep. of Haute-Saone, 9 m. ESE of Luxeuil, on the Ognon. Pop. 1,960.

**MELITO**, a village of Naples, in Calabria-Ultra Ima, 15 m. SE of Reggio. —Also a village in the prov. and 6 m. N of Naples.

**MELITOPOL**, a town of Russia, in the country of the Nogai Tartars, gov. of Tanrida, on the river and lake of Molotshnia-Vodi, 12 m. from the sea of Azof, and 108 m. S of Ekaterinoslav.

**MELK**, **MOLK**, or **MOELCK**, a small town of Lower Austria, half-way between Lintz and Vienna, and 14 m. W of St. Polten. Pop. 1,000. On a neighbouring rock stands one of the most splendid monasteries of Germany, with a rich collection of curiosities, a cabinet of medals, a large library, and a botanic garden.

\* **MELKAPORE**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Berar, in N lat.  $21^{\circ} 4'$ .

**MELKOVATZ**, a town of Bulgaria, in the sanj. and 45 m. SSE of Widdin, on the r. bank of the Zibritza.

**MELKRIDGE**, a township in the p. of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, 2 m. E of Haltwhistle, on the N bank of the S. Tyne. Pop. in 1851, 264.

**MELKSHAM**, a parish and market-town in Wilts,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  m. E by S of Bath, on the banks of the Avon, over which there is here a handsome stone-bridge, and intersected by the Wilts and Berks canal. The p. includes the chapelry of Seend. Area 12,572 acres. Pop. in 1831, 5,866; in 1851, 6,073. The town principally consists of one long street, in which the houses

are in general built of freestone, though somewhat irregularly set down. The manufacture of broad-cloth was at one time carried on here to a much larger extent than it is at present. Some business is done in malt and leather. About a  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town are two mineral springs, similar to those of Cheltenham, but of greater strength. A pump-room, with hot and cold baths, has been erected, and houses built for the accommodation of visitors to the spa. M. is one of the polling-places for the members for the N division of the co.

MELLA, a river of Austrian Italy, in the Milanese, which rises in Mount Maniva, 6 m. NE of Bovegno; flows through the Val-Trompia; and falls into the Oglio, on the l. bank, near Geniga, after a course from N to S of 50 m.

MELLAC, a village of France, in the dep. of Finistère, cant. and 3 m. NNW of Quimperle. Pop. 1,250.

MELLAH (RAS-EL), a cape of Barbary, on the coast of Barca, in N lat.  $31^{\circ} 57'$ , E long.  $25^{\circ} 4'$ .

MELLARA, a small town of Austrian Italy, in the Milanese, 18 m. E by S of Mantua, on the l. bank of the Po. Pop. 2,400.

MELLAWI, MELLAYOUI, or MELAUT, a town of Upper Egypt, in the prov. of Minieh, 120 m. S of Cairo. The country round supplies the city of Mecca with grain, which is conveyed by the way of Cairo, Suez, and the Red sea.

MELLE, a small town of Hanover, pleasantly situated on the river Hase, 4 m. W of Gröningen. Pop. 1,332.—Also a town of France, in the dep. of Deux-Sèvres, on the small river Bérroune, 18 m. ESE of Niort.—Also a commune and village in the dep. of Ile-et-Vilaine, cant. and 4 m. N of Louvigné. Pop. 1,300.—Also a village of the Sardinian states, in the div. of Coni, 4 m. W of Venasca. Pop. 1,903.

MELLERAY, or MEILLERAYE, a village of France, in the dep. of Loire-Inférieure, cant. and 4 m. S of Moisdon-la-Rivière. Pop. 750. There is here a celebrated convent of Trappists.

MELLERAYE (LA), a village of France, in the dept. of Vendée, cant. and 3 m. S of Pouzauges-la-ville, on the r. bank of the Grand Lay. Pop. 600.

MELLES, a village of France, in the dep. of Haute-Garonne, cant. and 4 m. SE of Saint-Beat. Pop. 800.

MELLFORT (LOCH), a small projection of the sea on the coast of Argyshire, which enters between Points Dognish and Ashnish, opposite the island of Luing. It is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. broad at the entrance, and extends 4 m. inland, in an ENE direction.

MELLID (SAN-PEDRO-DE), a town of Spain, in the prov. and 45 m. SE of Corunna. Pop. 2,931.

MELLIFONT, a parish in co. Louth,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. WNW of Drogheda. Its statistics are returned with Tallyallen.

MELLING, a parish in Lancashire,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. S by W of Kirkby-Lonsdale, situated between the rivers Lune and Wenning, and including the townships of Arkholme-with-Cawood, Farleton, M.-with-Wratton, Roburndale, Wennington, and Wray-with-Botton, and the chapelry of Hornby. Area 23,474 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,962; in 1851, 2,204.—Also a chapelry in the p. of Halsall,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. S by W of Ormskirk, crossed by the Leeds and Liverpool canal. Area 2,120 acres. Pop. in 1831, 559; in 1851, 662.

MELLINGEN, a town of Saxe-Weimar, in the bail. and 4 m. SE of Weimar, on the Ilm. Pop. 650.—Also a village of Switzerland, in the cant. of Aargau, on the l. bank of the Reuss. Pop. 746.

MELLION (SAINT), a parish in Cornwall, 3 m. S by E of Callington. Area 2,985 acres. Pop. 324.

MELLIS, a parish in Suffolk,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. W by N of Eye, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. W of the Eastern Counties railway.

Area 1,344 acres. Pop. in 1831, 513; in 1851, 610.

MELLO, a town of France, in the dep. of Oise, cant. and 6 m. W of Creil, on the Therain. Pop. 600.—Also a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Beira, 18 m. WNW of Guarda.

MELLONS (SAINT), a parish in Monmouthshire, 7 m. SW of Newport. Area 2,574 acres. Pop. in 1831, 564; in 1851, 637.

MELLOR, a chapelry in the p. of Glossop, Derbyshire,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. E by S of Stockport. There are extensive cotton-works here. Pop. in 1831, 2,059; in 1851, 1,777.—Also a chapelry in the p. of Blackburn, Lancashire,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. NW of Blackburn. Area 1,830 acres. Pop. in 1851, 1,668.

MELLREICHSTADT, a town of Bavaria, 50 m. NNW of Bamberg. Pop. 2,200. It has woollen manufactories.

MELLS, a parish in Somerset, 10 m. S by W of Bath. Area 3,611 acres. Pop. in 1851, 1,186.

MELMERBY, a parish in Cumberland, 8 m. NE of Penrith. Area 4,496 acres. Pop. in 1851, 296. A lead-mine is wrought in the p., and there are two mineral springs. The helm-winds blow here with great violence.—Also a township in the p. of Wath, N. R. of Yorkshire, 4 m. N by E of Ripon. Area 1,109 acres. Pop. in 1851, 323.—Also a township in the parish of Coverham, N. R. of Yorkshire,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. SW by W of Middleham. Area 1,153 acres. Pop. in 1831, 127; in 1851, 120.

MELNIK, a town of Bohemia, 21 m. WSW of Jung-Bunzlau, near the r. bank of the Elbe, at the confluence of the Moldau, in N lat.  $50^{\circ} 21' 50''$ . Pop. 1,378. Excellent wine is produced in the vicinity.

MELNITSY, a town of Russia, in the gov. of Volhynia, 21 m. ESE of Kowel.

MELORIA, an islet in the Mediterranean,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. W by S of Leghorn.

MELOVAIA, a town of Russia, in the gov. of Voronezh, 30 m. NNE of Bogutshar.

MELOVATKA, a town of Russia, in the gov. of Charkov, 40 m. SE of Kupiansk, on the r. bank of the Krisnaia.

MELROSE, a parish in the extreme N of Roxburghshire, forming a northerly projection of that co. between Selkirkshire and Berwickshire. It is watered by the Tweed, the Leader, Bowden-burn, Gala-water, and Allan-water. The whole of the fine E summit, half of the far-seeing central one, and the N skirt of the W one of the Eildon hills, are in the p., and form an imposing screen along its S boundary. "The valley of M.," says the *New Statistical Account*, "must have been a noble lake at some remote period, the Tweed entering it by a narrow inlet, across which Melrose-bridge is thrown, and leaving it by a narrow outlet at Tweedwood, before the formation of which, the whole space enclosed by the Eildon and Gattonside hills must have been a continued sheet of water. A substratum of water-sand, dense or penetrable by the spade, pure, or gravelly, is always met with in digging a few feet below the surface." Between one-fourth and one-third of the area of the p. lies S of the Tweed, and, excepting on the Eildon-hills and a patch of moorland stretching from their W base, is all in cultivation. The district N of the Tweed is, over an extent of 25 sq. m., strictly upland, pastoral, and bleak. In the vicinity of the Tweed are nearly twenty mansions and villas; but though they contribute to the beauty of the vale, they are flung individually into insignificance by the mighty spell of Abbotsford, once the residence of Scotland's greatest minstrel. The villages of Dornock, Gattouside, and Newstead, all stand in the vale of Melrose. Buckholmside and Darlingshaugh lie compactly with Gala-shiels. Newton, or Newton-Dryburgh, is a village

with about 160 inhabitants, situated 2½ m. SE of Melrose.—The town of M. is delightfully situated at the N base of the Eildon hills, 3 furl. S of the Tweed, on the road between Edinburgh and Jedburgh by way of Galashiels, 4 m. from Galashiels, and 35 m. from Edinburgh. Though graced with some modern and neat houses, it is an antique and dingy place, strongly contrasting in the bald, blackened, coarse forms of its time-worn houses, with the surpassing architectural magnificence of its abbey, and the gorgeous beauty of its circumjacent landscape. A modern wire-bridge for foot-passengers maintains a communication near the town, across the Tweed, with the N side of the vale. The stone-bridge, which carries across the Edinburgh turnpike, is 1½ m. to the W, near the village of Dornock. M. was long famed for the manufacture of a fabric called Melrose land-linen, commissions for which were received from London and foreign countries; but toward the end of last cent. the manufacture rapidly declined, and long ago it utterly disappeared. In 1833 the pop. within the burgh, including Danielton, was 740; in 1851, 966.—The abbey, founded by David I. in 1136, stands on a piece of level meadow, immediately NE of the town, and about ¼ m. S of the Tweed. The entire edifice, in the extension of its parts, and in the immense profusion of its architectural decorations, seems to have been the progressive work of upwards of two centuries, extending from 1326 till the Reformation. The architecture is the richest Gothic, combining the best features of its gracefulness and elaboration, and everywhere showing a delicacy of touch, and a boldness of execution, which evince the perfection of the style; while the material, soft enough to admit great nicety of chiselling, possesses such power of resistance to the weather that even the most minute ornaments retain nearly as much sharpness of edge or integrity of feature as when they were fresh from the chisel. The place incidentally owes nearly all its modern fame to 'the mighty minstrel,' whose princely earthly domicile at Abbotsford on the W, and his low last resting-place at Dryburgh on the E, compete with it in challenging the notice of the tourist. Pop. of p. in 1851, 7,365.

MELS, a town of Switzerland, in the cant. and 27 m. S of St. Gall, on the Seer. Pop., with that of Weistannan, 3,305 Catholics.

MELSELE, a town of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, 15 m. NE of Dendermonde. Pop. 2,722.

MELSONBY, a parish in the N. R. of Yorkshire, 5½ m. N by E of Richmond. Area 2,669 acres. Pop. in 1831, 514; in 1851, 559.

MELSUNGEN, a town of Hesse-Cassel, on the Fulda, 13 m. S of Cassel. Pop. 4,020. It has manufactures of woollen cloths.

MELTHAM, a chapelry in the parish of Almond-bury, Yorkshire, 5 m. SSW of Huddersfield. Area 4,525 acres. Pop. in 1831, 2,746; in 1851, 2,758.

MELTON, a parish in Suffolk, 2 m. NNE of Wood-bridge, on the W bank of the Deben. Area 1,420 acres. Pop. in 1831, 707; in 1851, 1,039.—Also a chapelry in the parish of Welton, Yorkshire, 4½ m. SE of South Cave. Area 900 acres. Pop. 174.

MELTON (GREAT), a parish in Norfolk, 6½ m. WSW of Norwich. Area 2,483 acres. Pop. 393.

MELTON (HORN), a parish in the W. R. of Yorkshire, 4½ m. SW of Doncaster. Area 1,464 acres. Pop. in 1831, 131; in 1851, 105.

MELTON (LITTLE), a parish in Norfolk, 5½ m. W by S of Norwich. Area 671 acres. Pop. 379.

MELTON-CONSTABLE, a parish in Norfolk, 5½ m. SW by S of Holt. Area 2,710 acres. Pop. 106. The seat of Sir J. Astley, Bart., situated in a fine park here, 4 m. in circumf., is one of the first mansions in England.

MELTON-MOWBRAY, a parish and market-town in Leicestershire, 14½ m. NE by E of Leicester, and 10 m. NW of Oakham, intersected by the river Wreke, and the Oakham canal. The parish includes the chapelry of Freeby, and the township of Welby. Area 10,266 acres. Pop. in 1831, 3,520; in 1851, 4,956.—The town is built on the banks of the Wreke, which is navigable to Leicester and Loughborough, and over which there are here two good bridges. It has of late years been much improved and enlarged. Its only manufactures are bobbin-net and hosiery. M. is one of the polling-places in the election of members for the N division of the co. Its pop. in 1851 was 4,391. The principal attraction of M., and the main source of its improvement, is the subscription-hunt to which it gives name, unquestionably the most celebrated in the kingdom. The season lasts 5 months, from November to March, during which the town is frequented by leading sportsmen from all quarters. Stabling is provided for 700 horses.

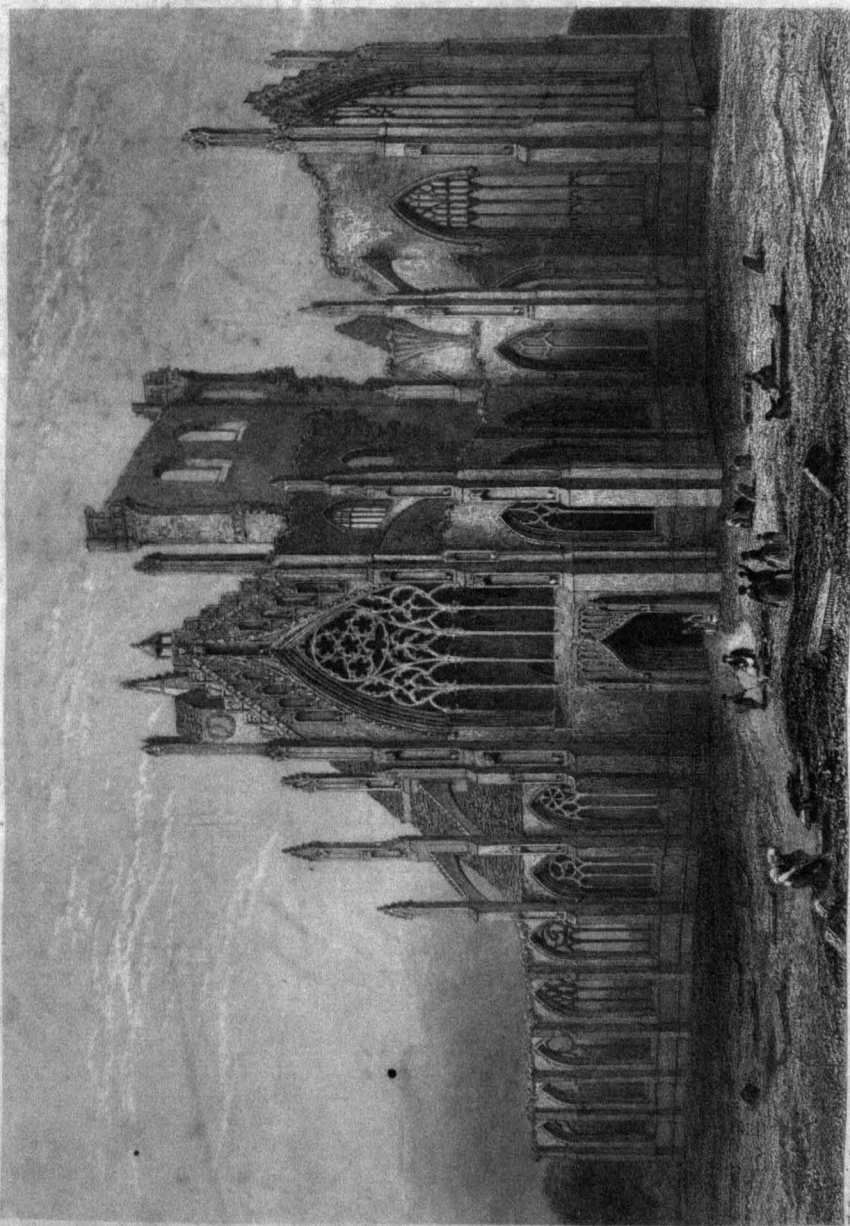
MELTON-ROSS, a parish in Lincolnshire, 5 m. NE by E of Glandford-bridge. Area 1,755 acres. Pop. in 1831, 158; in 1851, 159.

MELUN, an arrondissement, canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Marne. The arrond. comprises an area of 100,778 hect., and contains 5 cant. Pop. in 1831, 57,697; in 1841, 59,890.—The cant. comprises 31 com. Pop. in 1831, 19,990; in 1841, 22,721.—The town is 27 m. SE of Paris, on the Seine, at an alt. of 210 ft. above sea-level, and in N lat. 48° 32' 32", and E long. 2° 39' 10". Pop. in 1789, 5,158; in 1821, 6,692; in 1831, 6,622; and in 1841, 8,950. The Seine, which here forms an island, divides the town into 3 unequal parts, the largest of which rises amphitheatrically on the E. bank of the river. Two stone bridges are thrown across the river, of which one, the Pont-au-Moulin, admits of navigation. The town is neither well built nor well laid out, but in its general aspect it presents a pleasing effect. Its principal buildings are the prefecture, formerly a Benedictine abbey, and chiefly remarkable for its situation and the baths. It has a large square, and 2 public promenades; and has 2 churches, a communal college, several schools, a public library, a theatre, an hospital, extensive cavalry barracks, a house of detention, and 2 printing-establishments. On the island are the ruins of a fortress, in which several of the kings of France resided, and where Queen Blanche, mother of St. Louis, for some time held her court. M. has manufactories of calico plain and printed, cloth, druggist, serge, earthenware, fine cement, glass, jewellery, silk and felt hats, leather, ironware, beet-root sugar, tiles, bricks, &c. It has also tan and flour mills, and several lime and gypsum kilns. The trade, which is considerable, consists chiefly in corn, flour, wine, wood, coal, cheese, wool, and cattle.—This town was the *Melodunum* of the Romans. It was several times taken by the Normans; and in 1419 by the English, by whom it was retained till 1430.

MELVICH, a township and small hamlet in the p. of Reay, Sutherlandshire, 24 m. W by S of Thurso, on the E. bank of the Halladale, immediately above its entrance into Melvich bay.

MELVILLE, a mountain of New South Wales, in the district of Wellington, to the E of the confluence of Goobang creek with the Lachlan, and to the E of Mount Cunningham.—Also a mountain on the N confines of the prov. of Cambridge.—Also a group of hills in the dist. of Liverpool plains.—Also an extensive lagoon in Western Australia, in the county of Porth, into which Swan and Canning rivers discharge themselves, and which empties itself into the ocean at the town of Freemantle.—Also a parish of Tasmania, in the co. of Monmouth, bounded on the N





W. J. L. 1840

W. J. L. 1840

Melrose Abbey

and E by the Jordan, on the W by the parish of Arundel, and on the S by the Derwent.

**MELVILLE BAY**, a bay of the N coast of Australia, on the NW side of the gulf of Carpentaria, in S lat. 12°, and E long. 136° 45'. It is 30 m. in length, and 27 m. in medium breadth. Its entrance, extending from the little group of islands bearing the same name on the E, to Cape Wilberforce on the NW, has a width of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. This bay affords excellent holding-ground.—Also a bay of Greenland, near the NE extremity of Baffin's bay, enclosed on the W by a cape of the same name; and extending between 75° 35' and 76° 20' N lat., and between 59° 45' and 64° 30' W long. The width of its entrance, stretching between Capes Lewis and Melville, is about 120 m. The latter headland is in N lat. 76° 20', and W long. 62° 30'.

**MELVILLE (CAPE)**, a rugged headland of reddish coloured granite, on the NE coast of Australia, in S lat. 14° 13', E long. 144° 35', forming the N extremity of Jane's Table-land, and the E side of Bathurst bay.

**MELVILLE ISLAND**, an island of New South Shetland, in the group of the Powell islands, to the E of Pomona, in S lat. 60° 40', and W long. 44° 10'. It is about 30 m. in length from E to W.—Also an island off the NW coast of Australia, from which it is separated by Clarence and Dundas straits, and Van Diemen's gulf. On the W it is separated by Apsley strait from Bathurst island. It is 370 m. from Cape Arnhem, and lies between 11° 7' and 11° 56' S lat., and between 130° 20' and 131° 30' E long. It is about 100 m. in circumf., and is generally mountainous. Its principal points are Capes Van Diemen, Jahleel, Fleeming, Keith, and Gambier. On its N coast are Breton and Lethbridge bays. Its surface is to a great extent covered with wood, and it is watered by several rivers. An establishment was formed on this island in 1824, at a point of the coast named King's Cove or Port Cockburn, by the English government, with the view of opening commercial relations with the Malays; but, from the ferocity of the natives, it has hitherto been attended with but little success.—See article AUSTRALIA. P. 458.—Also an island in the Arctic ocean, in N lat. 74° 47', W long. 110° 48', in the group of the N. Georgian islands, to the NE of Banks' land. It is surrounded by icebergs from 40 to 50 ft. in thickness; and, with the exception of some species of moss, is totally destitute of vegetation. In winter it is frequented by bears only; but in summer it is inhabited also by rein-deer, squirrels, and a species of rat named *Mus Hudsonius*.

**MELVILLE'S MONUMENT**, an island of Baffin's bay, in Duneira-bay, in N lat. 75° 26', and W long. 59° 32'.

**MELVILLE PENINSULA**, a peninsula connected with the North American continent on the SW by an isthmus running between Sir Thomas Roe's Welcome and Wager river and Repulse bay; and bounded on the N by Fury and Hecla strait, by which it is separated from Cockburn island; on the E by Fox's channel; on the S by Frozen strait, and Sir Thomas Roe's Welcome, by which it is separated from Southampton island; and on the W by Repulse bay and Boothia gulf. It stretches between 81° and 86° W long. Its principal points are Cape Eaglefield at the NW extremity, and Capes Jermain, Brown, Penrhyn, and Wilson. On its S side are Lyon inlet, Gore bay, Duckett cove, and Middleton bay.

**MELVILLE PORT**, a harbour of the Great Luchu island, in the archipelago of that name, on the N coast, in N lat. 26° 44', E long. 127° 55'.

**MELVILLE SOUND**, an inlet of Arctic America, on the W side of Kent peninsula, and forming

the E arm of Coronation gulf. It is 30 m. wide from E to W, and 20 m. from N to S; and opens between Point Beechy and Cape Croker. The meridian of 108° W passes nearly through its centre, and the parallel of 68° 8' N.

**MELVIN (LOUGH)**, a sheet of water partly in the p. of Innismacsaint, co. Fermanagh, and partly in co. Leitrim, and 6 m. NW of Donegal bay. It covers an area of 4,460 acres, and contains numerous islands. It receives several small streams, and discharges itself by Drowes river into Donegal bay.

**MELY**, or **MELEE**, a river of Abyssinia, which has its source in the S part of Tigre and prov. of Lasta; runs E; and after a course of 109 m. joins the Ancona, and thence takes the name of Hanazo, Anazo, or Yasso.

**MELZO**, a town of Austria, in Lombardy, in the gov. and deleg. and 12 m. ENE of Milan. Pop. 1,600. It is substantially built of brick. Linen and fustian are its chief articles of manufacture. This town is supposed to be the ancient *Melpum*.

**MEMBACH**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. and 18 m. E of Liege, and arrond. of Verviers, watered by the Vesdre. Pop. 636. It has manufactories of cloth.

**MEMBRE**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Namur, and arrond. of Dinant, watered by the Semoi. Pop. 187.

**MEMBRILLA**, an ancient town of Spain, in New Castile, in the prov. and 29 m. E of Ciudad-Real, and partido of Manzanares, in a fine plain, on the r. bank of the Azuer. Pop. 3,620. It has a castle, now in ruins, a parish church, several convents, and a custom-house. Coarse linen and soap are its chief articles of manufacture. This town was taken by Alphonso VIII. from the Moors.

**MEMBRUGGEN**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Limburg and arrond. of Tongres. Pop. 555. It has a large brewery.

**MEMBU**, a town of Burmah, in the Mramma, on the r. bank of the Irrawady, 180 m. SW of Ava.

**MEMBURY**, a parish of Devonshire, 4 m. NNW of Axminster. Area 4,089 acres. Pop. 793.

**MEMDUR**, a town of Hindostan, in the district and 24 m. NW of Masulipatam.

**MEME (SAINT)**, a village of France, in the dep. of Charente, cant. and 4 m. NE of Segonzac. Pop. 900.

**MEMEL**, a port of East Prussia, in the reg. and 74 m. N of Königsberg, at the mouth of the small river Dange, adjacent to the Curische-haff, which here joins the Baltic by a narrow strait, in N lat. 55° 43' 7", E long. 21° 6' 2". Pop. in 1837, 9,034; in 1846, 9,400. It is strongly fortified; and consists of an old and a new town, and three suburbs, one of which lies beyond the Dange. It has two Lutheran churches, a Calvinist and a Catholic church, a college, a normal school, and an hospital. Its situation is favourable for trade, the Curische-haff receiving the great river Memel or Niemen, which is navigable throughout a great part of Lithuania, and brings down the produce of the country from as far as Grodno, while the town itself, lying only about 13 m. from the Russian frontier, affords facilities of smuggling with that country. It is accordingly the commercial centre of a large tract of country, and largely exports timber, hemp, flax, corn, hides and skins, tallow, bristles, wax, feathers, and Lithuanian yarn. The imports are chiefly articles of colonial produce, such as coffee, sugar, pepper, dyewoods, tobacco, rum, and manufactured cottons. The harbour has a depth of 14 ft., and can accommodate 300 vessels; but its entrance is obstructed by shoals and quicksands. In 1825, 1,115 vessels sailed from this port, whereof 665 were English. The number of vessels which entered the port during 1849 was 1,074 vessels, of which 554,

more than one-half, were English, 197 Dutch, 129 Norwegian, 119 Prussian, 17 Russian, 15 Danish, 12 Swedish, 8 French, 1 American, &c. Of these, 130 were laden with coals, 115 with salt, 113 with herrings; 566 were in ballast, and the remainder with general cargoes. The number of vessels which cleared outwards with cargoes in 1849 was 1,072, of which 648 were for Great Britain, 151 to Holland, 104 to Norway, 52 to Belgium, 25 to France, 18 to Bremen, 18 to Denmark, 14 to Prussia, 11 to South America, 1 to North America, 5 to Portugal, 11 to Hamburg, Lübeck, and Oldenburg. Of these, 444 vessels were laden with grain, 366 with timber, staves, &c., 130 with linseed, 58 with flax, hemp, and tow, 44 with oil-cakes, 5 with oil, 4 with rags, and the remainder with different articles of export. The exchange transactions of M. are generally performed at Königsberg. Its manufactures are trifling, with the exception of saw-mills for cutting the timber into deals, logs, and boards.

**MEMEL.** See NIEMEN.

**MEMERJIK,** a town of Asiatic Turkey, in the sanjak of Ardin, 50 m. NE of Güzeli-Hissar.

**MEMFRI,** a village of Sicily, between Castel-Vitrano and Sciacca, near the Belice.

**MEMIN (SAINT),** a village of France, in the dep. of Dordogne, cant. and 8 m. ENE of Erideuil. Pop. 1,500.

**MEMMINGEN,** a town of Bavaria, on the Iller, 43 m. SW of Augsburg. Pop. 6,876. It is surrounded with walls, and has broad streets. It possesses a public library and a high school, a town-house, a merchants' hall, an arsenal, and barracks. Its manufactures, though on a small scale, are various; and consist of weaving and printing cottons and linen, tobacco-works, tanneries, and iron and copper works. Woollens are also made here, and in the environs are cultivated hops.

**MEMMLEBAN,** a town of Prussian Saxony, in the reg. and 24 m. WSW of Merseburg, on the r. bank of the Unstrut.

**MEMPHIS,** a ruined city of Central Egypt, once its capital, now marked only by ruins and mounds, in the midst of which stand the hamlets of Mitraheny and Sakkara. It is situated on the l. bank of the Nile, 9 m. SE of Cairo. The v. of Mitraheny, about 7 m. SE of Cairo, occupies what may have been the centre of the ancient city, which, taking its circuit at 150 stadia, or 17 m., as described by Diodorus, must have reached on the one side to the river's bank, and on the other to the sand-hills on the edge of the Desert. Much of this is now occupied by a sandy waste, or by marshes. From Abusir, the ancient *Busiris*, all round to the W and S for several miles, you step from grave to grave, amid bones and fragments of mummy-cloth, the remains of the ancient necropolis of M., which, according to Strabo, extended half-a-day's journey each way from the great city. The ruins of M. were considerable in the time of Abulfeda, 1342. With Thebes, it waned in opulence before the rising importance of Alexandria; yet at the time of the Arab invasion, it was still the residence of the governor of Egypt. But the erection of the new Arab city of Fostat completed its ruin; and a large portion of its removable materials and blocks of stone was transported to rear the new capital.

**MEMPHIS,** a township of Shelby co., in Tennessee; U. S., 230 m. WSW of Nashville, and 780 m. from New Orleans, on an elevated bluff on the Mississippi, immediately below the confluence of Wolf river. Pop. 3,300. It is the port through which the cotton-trade of Tennessee is carried on.

**MEMPHREMAGOG,** a lake of North America, the greater part of which belongs to Lower Canada,

about 7 m. of its S extremity to the state of Vermont, U. S. It is 35 m. long, and from 2 to 3 m. broad; communicates with the St. Lawrence by the St. Francis; and receives the waters of Black, Barton, and Clyde rivers, which rise in Vermont.

**MEMRAMCOOK,** a small river, which has been recommended as the boundary between the prov. of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

**MENA,** a town of Russia, in the gov. and 48 m. E of Chernigov. Pop. 2,000.

**MENADO,** a town on the NE coast of Celebes, the seat of government for the Moluccas.

**MENAGGIO,** a town of Austrian Italy, 15 m. NNE of Como, on the W bank of the lake of Como, at the embouchure of the Senagra.

**MENAI HILLS,** a range of hills on the coast of Champion bay, in Australia, in about 28° 30' S.

**MENAI-STRAIT,** an arm of the sea which cuts off Anglesea from Carnarvonshire, in North Wales. It runs SW and NE, and is about 14 m. in length, by various breadths of from 2 m. to 200 yds. The word *menai* signifies narrow water. The strait is supposed to have been at one time crossed by a land-communication. Traces of an isthmus seem still visible near Porthaeth-bwy, where a line of rocks formerly jutted out nearly across the channel, in the broken interstices of which, the sea, at the beginning of flood-tide, foamed and fluctuated with much violence, rendering the passage of vessels very dangerous. Other rocks were also well known and dreaded in the navigation of this channel. The attention of parliament, however, was at length turned to these dangerous impediments, and so much of them was cut away as rendered the passage of vessels of all sizes both easy and secure. The navigation of the M. is of much importance, vessels being able to float quietly through at periods when the wind totally prevents the possibility of sailing round by Holyhead.—Between 1819 and 1826, an elegant and lofty bridge, on the suspension principle, beneath which ships of the largest class can sail, was thrown over this strait at the expense of government, in the line of the Great Holyhead mail-road, at the rocky point called Ynys-y-Moch or Pig's island, near Bangor ferry. The distance between the piers at the level of the road is 551 ft.; the road-way is 102 ft. above high-water level, and 28 ft. wide, and is divided into two carriage-ways of 12 ft. each, with a foot-way between them of 4 ft. In the recent projects for facilitating communication between London and Ireland by railways, it was at first proposed, both by Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Gile, that the M. suspension-bridge should form part of their respective lines, the former suggesting that the railway carriages might be drawn over by horses; the latter, by a stationary engine. The following particulars relative to this question are extracted from the first report of the committee appointed by the Lords of the Treasury to examine the projected lines of railway: "The weight of a railway passenger-carriage, with its load, is commonly estimated at about 5 tons, and the length occupied by each carriage, from one connecting pin to another, may be taken at 22 ft. when several carriages are in connexion. This would give a pressure of only 23 of a ton per lineal foot on the length of the bridge, supposing the platform to be wholly filled with such carriages. Let us now see what weight the bridge is capable of sustaining. It appears from the statement of the resident engineer during the erection of this splendid structure, that the suspended part between the piers consists

	Tons.	Cwts.
Of 16 main chains, including connecting-plates, screws, bolts, &c., weighing	394	5
Of transverse ties, do.	3	16½
And of suspended rods, platforms, &c., do.	245	13½
The total weight being	643	15

The distance between the points of suspension is 579 ft. 10½ in., and the deflection 43 ft. With these data, the tension, in terms of the weight, may be readily computed from the properties of the catenary curve; but it will perhaps be more satisfactory to derive it from the actual experiments of Mr. Rhodes, who superintended the erection of the chains, and who found, practically, the tension to amount to 17 times the weight. This makes the tension on the supporting chains from the weight of the structure alone to amount to 1,094 tons. Now, to sustain this tension, we have a sectional area in the 16 chains of 260 sq. in., which, according to Mr. Barlow's experiments, made on the chain-cable testing machine at Woolwich, are capable of sustaining 2,600 tons, without injury to the elastic force of the iron, viz., 10 tons per sq. inch, the ultimate strength being 25 tons per sq. inch.

	Tons.
If, then, from the absolute strength of the chains,	2,600
We deduct the strain due to the weight of the bridge,	1,094

There remains a surplus strength of 1,506 which is competent, therefore, to sustain a uniform load, allowing the tension to be 17 times the weight, of 1,506 or 866 tons.



Now, if the bridge were covered with loaded railway carriages on both sides, it would only be equivalent to 265 tons, leaving still a surplus strength of 621 tons. The objections, therefore, that have been raised respecting the capability of the bridge to bear the weight of the railway carriages which it might be required to support," adds the reporting committee, "must be considered as utterly groundless. Mr. Stephenson proposes to establish a station at each end of the bridge, where the locomotive engines would be kept in readiness to be attached to the trains." When the Chester and Holyhead company obtained their first act in the July of 1844, it proposed to use one of the road-ways of the suspension-bridge for the purposes of the railway traffic, and to divide the trains and draw the portions across with horses, so as to avoid the risk of overloading the bridge. This device was knocked on the head by a proviso, introduced by the commissioners of the woods and forests into the bill, that the use of this bridge should only be temporary. There was nothing for it, therefore, but to select some new point for a railway bridge across the straits. The Britannia rock was fixed upon for the centre pier of two cast-iron arches of 350 ft. span, and 105 ft. above high-water, and for the construction without centering. A plan devised by Sir Isambard Brunel, of building arches by placing equal and corresponding portions at the opposite sides of the pier at the same time, and tying them together by cross rods, was resolved upon to avoid centering. But it was urged that the proposed bridge, by its piers and lowness at the sides of the arches, would dangerously narrow the practicable waterway, and an Admiralty commission insisted upon 105 ft. above the water at spring-tide, over 370 ft. of each of the two navigable channels on either side of the Britannia rock. The objection to the suspension principle as applied to railways arose from the unsteadiness of the way: Mr. Stephenson, therefore, fixed his entire attention upon the one idea of obtaining a stiff platform to a suspension-bridge. A plan devised by him in 1841 for a small iron-bridge of 50 ft. span over the river Lea, in the town of Ware, gave the idea of a suspended wrought-iron tube through which the trains might pass. On consideration, this suspended tube presented itself to his mind as a beam laid across the straits; and the chains, which had hitherto been looked upon as the main source of strength, came to be viewed as auxiliaries that it might even be possible to dispense with. The bill received the royal assent on the 30th of June, 1845, and a series of elaborate and costly experiments, in test of the strength of wrought-iron tubes, and to determine the form and construction of greatest strength, were set on foot, which extended over a period of 9 months. The first stone of the Britannia tower was laid on the 21st of Sept., 1846. There are stones in the tower 20 ft. in length, and some that weigh 12 and 14 tons; it contains 293,250 cub. ft. of stone, weighing 20,000 tons; and, in the way of beams and girders, there are 387 tons of cast-iron built into it. The first rivet of the Britannia tubes was driven on the 10th of August, 1847. The first tube was floated on the 20th of June, 1848. On the 10th of August the hydraulic presses commenced heaving up the mighty weight, which was finally laid in its position on the 9th of November. At every inch of elevation, they were propped from below with timber-props. The lifting-chains, which were passed from the ram of the hydraulic press to the ends of the tube, and which were expected to rise with the rising of the ram, lifting the tube of course along with them, were each massive iron links of 120 ft. in length, and equivalent, through their entire extent, to solid iron bars of 10 in. sq. When the hydraulic machine was first set slowly to work, it was found that the ram or piston was raised in the cylinder by the action of the water, that the chains held firm, but that the tube was not raised at all; it still remained fixed on the pontoon. Much surprise was not unreasonably felt at this occurrence, which seemed to set the ordinary laws of mechanics at defiance; the action of the press was, however, continued, but it was not till the water had forced the piston up an inch and a half that the tube began to be moved at all. On further examination it was found that the secret lay in the elasticity of the iron chains, that the enormous weight had the effect of elongating these 10-inch sq. iron bars, and that they shrink back to their natural length the instant the weight was taken off, and the strain removed. So invariable was this result that the engineers calculated upon it at last as a matter of course, and by applying their hands to the chains they could actually feel the tension of the iron as the strain was gradually applied to it, and the recoil the moment it was taken off: so that, in Mr. Stephenson's words, "the iron worked backward and forward like a piece of India rubber." The second tube was floated on the 4th of December, and let down upon its bed on the 7th of February, 1850. On the 3d of March the Carnarvon land-tube was placed, the first tubes passed through the tubes; the last rivet of the complete half of the bridge was driven on the 5th, and the single line was opened for public traffic on the 18th. On the 10th of June the third tube was floated, and on the 11th of July laid in position upon the towers. On the 25th the last tube was floated, it was laid into position, and the double line of way opened to traffic on the 19th of Oct., at a total cost of £601,865. The bridge now practically consists of two tubes, of more than a quarter of a mile each in length, and weighing together upwards of 10,000 tons. The trains speed through at unslackened pace, as if it were a tunnel through solid rock on land. These tubes, in strengthening angle-plates and framework alone, contain 65 m. of iron. The entire structure is made of 186,000 separate pieces, through which are 7,000,000 holes; the plates are clasped together by 2,000,000 rivets, clenched at red heat, which, as they

cooled, by their contraction drew the plates together to the firmness of a solid piece. The bend allowed in making the tubes was braced to perfect level on the centres being joined. The changes resultant upon temp. also prove the sound judgment of laying the ends of each line of tube free play upon rollers and balls. "The enormous tunnel, that scarce stirs to the heaviest trains, stretches itself in the warmth of the noontide sun, gathers itself back under the chill of night, bends towards every gleam of sunshine, and shrinks from every cloud. The severest storm does not vibrate the tubes more than a quarter of an inch, and the heaviest trains deflect them about three-tenths of an inch; and for measuring this deflection Robert Stephenson has adopted in the tubes a very ingenious water and oil level." Some curious acoustic effects have been observed on this tubular bridge. Though the roadway is so rigid that it feels as the trains thunder over it, actually more solid than the earth itself, the top is so elastic that it vibrates with every foot-tread. Pistol shots or any sonorous noises are echoed within the tube half-a-dozen times. The cells of the top and bottom were used by the engineers as speaking-tubes, and they could carry on conversations through them in whispers. By elevating the voice persons may converse through the length of the bridge, nearly a quarter of a mile. The following is an official return of the cost of the entire structure:—Pedestals and wing-walls, on Carnarvon side, £17,469; Carnarvon tower, £28,626; Britannia tower, £38,671; Anglesea tower, £31,430; pedestals and wing-walls, on Anglesea side, £40,470; lions, £2,048; total, £158,704. Wrought iron used in tubes, £118,946; cast-iron in tubes and towers, £30,619; construction of tubes, £226,234; pontoons, ropes, capstans, painting materials, £28,096; raising machinery, £9,782; carpentry and labour in floating, raising, and completing bridge, £25,498; experiments, £3,986; total, £601,865. The total weight of each of the wrought iron roadways, now completed, represents 12,000 tons, supported on a total mass of masonry of a million and a half cubic ft., run up at the rate of 3 ft. in a minute.

MENALLAN, a township of Fayette co., in Pennsylvania, U. S. Pop. 1,377.

MENAM, MEINAM, MAY-LE-KIANG, or MEI-KIANG, a great river of Siam, which is reported to have its source in the mountains of Northern Laos, in about 24° N lat., and flows in a S direction through the centre of the Siamese territory, and between the Saluen on the W and the Menam-kong on the E, to the head of the gulf of Siam, into which it discharges itself under the 13th parallel, by three deltoid branches, after a course of about 800 m. Its valley, which is hemmed in on both sides by ranges of mountains, does not anywhere exceed 50 m. in breadth, but it has an uninterrupted length of 450 m., and presents an area of above 20,000 sq. m. of highly fertile soil. The entrance of the river is difficult to find, for the coast is here a dead level, scarcely rising above low-water mark. A bar 10 or 12 m. broad, with but 1½ fath. water at low tide, extends along the mouths of the river from E to W for several miles. The arm usually taken is about 1 m. wide; and, 2 m. up, is 1,600 yds. in width; while at the cap. Bangkok, 27 m. up, in N lat. 13° 58', it has a breadth of 1,000 yds., with about 7 fath. water from shore to shore. Under the 17th parallel it receives, on the l. bank, the Anan river, which is supposed to connect it with the Menam-kong. The Kwepasak flows into it, on the l. bank, opposite Yuthia; and the Ta-chin, on the r. bank of the western deltoid arm.

MENAM-KONG, MEKON, MAE-KHAN, or CAMBODIA, a large river of Eastern Asia, which rises in Tibet, near the sources of the Brahmaputra, in two small streams called the Tsa-tchu, and the Om-tchu enters China, and flows in a SSE direction through Yun-nan, under the names successively of the Lantsan-kiang and Kiou-long; enters Laos under the parallel of 21° 45', and pursues a SSW direction to the city of Lan-chang; crosses the N frontier of Cambodia, under the parallel of 15° N, and flows in a nearly S direction, but in three streams, over a distance of 150 m., to the parallel of 11°; then turns SSE, and flows into the Sea of China by a number of deltoid branches, after a course of 1,600 m. Little is known of the territory through which this great stream flows.

MENAN (GRAND), an island of New Brunswick, in Charlotte co., in the Atlantic, about 7 m

S of Campo Bello, a little to the W of Passamaquoddy bay, and near the entrance of the bay of Fundy. It is about 20 m. in length, and 5 m. in average breadth. Its shores are extremely rocky, and render it inaccessible on all sides except the N, on which it has two small coves. To the NE are numerous islets. A large portion of the surface of the island is covered with sheets of water and salt marsh; but it has some good ground, and produces various kinds of grain, besides still possessing some good timber.

**MENAN** (Petr), an island of the state of Maine, U. S., in the Atlantic, off the harbour of Steuben, 3 m. SSE of Goldsborough harbour. It has a light-house, the tower of which is 25 ft. in height.

**MENANGKABOS**, the most ancient tribe in Sumatra, about 1,000,000 in number, who reside in the central elevated interval between the two great ranges of mountains. They were once the most prominent tribe, and their rajah still holds a revered but merely nominal supremacy over Sumatra. Their country abounds in gold; they have signs of antique grandeur, and their gold and silver filigree work, sold at Padang, their chief *entrepôt*, is the finest specimen of art in the archipelago. The people live mostly about the banks of an extensive lake in the valley, occupying large buildings that contain 20 families together, like those of the Indians near the Columbia river. They profess Mahomedanism; but at what period they embraced the doctrines of the Arabian prophet does not appear. The conversion of Malacca and Achin to Moslemism took place in the 13th cent., but it is uncertain whether M. was converted previous to this date, although the Mahomedan religion is said to have been preached at Sumatra as early as the 12th cent. About 1160, a colony issued from the interior of Sumatra and established themselves at Singapore, where a line of Hindu princes continued to reign until 1276. Whatever may, in more remote times, have been the nature of the intercourse between foreign nations and Menangkabo itself, or the territory of the M., we know that Singapore, during the period noticed, was an extensively maritime and commercial state, and, at the time when the Portuguese settled at Malacca, embraced the largest portion of the commerce between the bay of Bengal and the China sea. Trade and agriculture are still encouraged among the M., and they are guided by the Koran in all judicial matters.

**MENANGLE**, a parish of New South Wales, in the co. of Cumberland, extending N to George river, and on the S and W to Nepean river. Pop. 295.

**MENARD**, a central county of the state of Illinois, comprising an area of 260 sq. m., drained by Sangamon river and its branches. Pop. in 1840, 4,431; in 1850, 6,351.

**MENARS**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Loir-et-Cher and cant. of Mer, 12 m. NE of Blois. Pop. 449. It has a fine castle. Agricultural implements are extensively manufactured here. This commune formed an ancient marquissate, comprising the town of Mer.

**MENAS-ALBAS**, a town of Spain, in New Castile, in the prov. and 26 m. SSW of Toledo, and partido of Novahermosa, in a plain at some distance from the mountains of Toledo. Pop. 3,651. The streets are extremely tortuous, and the houses small and miserable looking. It has a parish-church, an hospital in a ruinous condition, several convents, and several public granaries. It possesses manufactories of bolting-cloth, earthenware, a fulling-mill, several dye-works, and several lime-kilns; and carries on a considerable trade with Toledo and Madrid in charcoal and mules.

**MENAT**, a cauton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Puy-de-Dôme, and arrond. of Riom. The cant. comprises 11 com. Pop. in 1831, 10,642; in 1841, 11,394. The town is 20 m. N of Riom, on the l. bank of the Sioule. Pop. 2,020. Carbo-bituminous schist occurs in the environs.

**MENCHUAN**, or **MENSUAN**, an island of the Chonos archipelago, near the W coast of Patagonia, 6 m. SW of the island of Tenquehuen, in S lat. 45° 36', W long. 74° 56'. It is about 6 m. in length.

**MENCIA** (Dona), a town of Spain, in Andalusia, in the prov. and 30 m. SE of Cordova, and partido of Cabra, between the rivers Gualmoral and Bailen.

Pop. 4,280. It has a parish-church, a custom-house, an hospital, and several convents. It has manufactories of linen. Cattle are extensively reared in the environs.

**MENDAHATEIN**, a village of Turkey in Europe, in Bosnia, in the sanj. and to the SW of Svor-nik. It has a productive salt spring.

**MENDANA ISLANDS**. See **MARQUESAS**.

**MENDANHA**, a mountain of Brazil, in the prov. of Minas-Geraes, and district of Diamantina.

**MENDAVIA**, or **MENDABIA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. of Navarra, and partido of Navarra, 30 m. SW of Pamplona. Pop. 1,830. It consists of two parts, the principal of which is built on a rising ground. It contains 2 churches and an hospital, and has a productive salt-mine.—The battle between the kings of Navarra and Aragon, in which, in 1507, Caesar Borgia was killed, was fought in the vicinity of this town.

**MENDE**, an arrondissement, canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of Lozère. The arrond. comprises an area of 177,723 hect. and contains 7 cant. Pop. in 1831, 45,440; in 1841, 46,548.—The cant. comprises 10 com. Pop. in 1831, 1,324; in 1841, 11,471.—The town, which is the capital of the dep., is 69 m. NW of Nîmes, and 339 m. S of Paris, situated in a valley on the l. bank of the Lot, and at some distance WNW of the Lozère, in N lat. 44° 30' 22", and E long. 3° 29' 19". Pop. in 1789, 3,458; in 1821, 5,350; in 1831, 5,822; in 1841, 5,931; and in 1846, 4,619. It is ill-built, and its streets are narrow and tortuous; but it has numerous fountains by means of which it is kept clean and well-watered. Its principal buildings are the prefecture, the cathedral, one of the towers of which is considered a chef-d'œuvre of architecture, and the fountain of the Griffon. It has also a public library and several schools. It has extensive manufactories of common cloth, serge, and other woollen fabrics, several dye-works, a fine paper and several spinning mills; and carries on an active trade in a species of woollen manufacture known as the serges of Mende, with Spain, Italy, and Germany. The environs are delightful, and are adorned with numerous villas and gardens, and on the brow of the adjacent summit of Mont Mimat is the hermitage—partly cut out of a rock—of Saint-Privat. M. is a town of great antiquity. It was named *Minatun* by Gregory of Tours, and was the cap. of Gévaudan.

**MENDEHURIA**, or **MONDRAGORA**, a town of Asiatic Turkey, in the sanj. of Karasi, 7 m. SE of Balikshehr.

**MENDELI**, a town of Asiatic Turkey, in the pash. and 72 m. NE of Bagdad, on the r. bank of the Aftab.

**MENDEN**, a town of Prussian Westphalia, in the reg. of Arensburg, on the river Hohn or Hünne, 49 m. NE of Cologne. Pop. 2,445.—Also a village in the reg. of Dusseldorf, circle of Duisburg. Pop. 528.

**MENDERE-CHAI**, or **MEINDER-BUYUK**, a river of Asiatic Turkey, rising under the parallel of 39° 45' N, in several head-streams, which unite in about 38° 45' and 28° 21' E, a little to the NE of Ene. The united stream flows N for about 5 m., and then WNW for about 3 m. It then flows N, passing the ancient *Per-gamus* on its l. bank, and receiving the Kinar-su, or *Andreios*, about 2 m. to the N of this point, and then turning NW, pursues a singularly meandering course, between the basin of the Bunar-bashi-su on the W, and that of the Kalfatli-Asmak on the E, till it approaches within about a mile of the coast; when it turns N, and after a further course of 5 m., flows into the *Ægean* sea in about 40° N lat., and 26° 15' E long., a little to the E of Kum-Kaleh, the ancient Sigæan promontory. Dr. Forchhammer identifies this river with the *Sinios* of Homer; the Bunar-bashi, on the l., with the *Scamander*; and the Kinar or Kamara with the *Andreios*. In his investigations into the topography of the plain of Troy, he remarks the M. flows through the middle of it, in a direction parallel to the general outline of the bounding mountain-ridge, and in the central and lower part of its course in a large, deep, and well-defined bed, from 200 to 300 ft. broad.

that the *Scamander*, or Bunarhashi-su, on the L. rises from a number of springs under the hill of Bunarhashi, the site of Troy; flows along the upper edge of the plain in a W direction, and then turns off to the SW through a small valley which separates the range on which Bunarhashi stands from the ridge of Yenicher, and enters the *Ægean* sea, by an artificial canal which existed before the time of Homer; while the other river, the Kalifatli-Asmak, on the r. of the M., rises in a marshy lake called Judan-Gbul, at the foot of a spur of the Tehlikak range, on the opposite side of the plain, over against Bunarhashi, and in the upper part of its course, that is as far as the village of Kalifatli, flows in a direction parallel to the M., after which it turns N., runs along the foot of the hill on which stands Hissarjik, the *Ilum Novum*, and, joining at Kum-Keui the Dumbrek-su, or *Thymbris*, coming from the E, diverges to the NW, and falls into the Hellespont by different mouths, the most westerly of which approaches close to that of the M. At Kum-Keui there is an artificial canal by which a part of the waters of the Kalifatli-Asmak and the Dumbrek are continued in a due N direction to the sea into which they fall close under the Rhætan promontory. Of these streams none is navigable at all times but the *Scamander*; the others are either quite dry in the summer, or have their beds only partially filled with water, on which account they are called *asmaks*, or *asmaks*, whereas the term *su* or *chai* is applied only to constantly flowing streams. In the winter these streams all overflow their banks, and the plain is inundated in many places, while they form at their mouths brackish lagoons. The rocks which bound the plain are of a sandy limestone, for the most part rising gradually from the plain, and having flat summits covered by a deep and fertile though uncultivated soil. The hills on the side of the Kamar, coming from the NE, and falling into the M. a little below Bunarhashi, are decidedly volcanic in character. The soil of the plain itself is throughout a rich clay, intersected with hillocks of sand. Through this plain the M. flows between banks of commonly from 8 to 12 ft. in height, and partially covered with willows and other trees. In the month of August, Dr. F. found the M. on an average from 80 to 40 ft. broad, and less than a foot deep. According to Dr. F. the Kalifatli never flows into the M., as some travellers have asserted; nor do these rivers ever join, except, perhaps, in the time of inundation, when it is the waters of the M. which flow over the plain into the Kalifatli, and not those of the Kalifatli into the M. It is true the slope of the Rhætan ridge forces the Kalifatli to approach very near the M., but not even the smallest branch of the Asmak falls into the M. The Kimar, Kaimar, or Kamara, has caused much confusion in the topography of Troy. The fact is, the Greeks used to call an arch of a bridge, or an aqueduct *kamara*, and the Turks have adopted the word, which they pronounce *kinar*. They call a river with such an arch *kinar-su*, or, as the Greeks would pronounce it, *Kamara-su*. The junction of the Kamar with the M. is close to the narrow pass by which the latter river issues into the plain of Troy. The plain itself, besides the rivers which have been mentioned as flowing through it, abounds in swamps and marshes. Through the high cliffs of the promontory of *Sigæum*, between the modern village of Yeni Keui and the tumulus in the middle of that promontory, a deep channel has been cut apparently to drain the plain, but is now so obstructed as to be of no use. The artificial channel of the *Scamander* was evidently made for the same purpose; and several smaller ones in different parts of the plain. During summer, when there is little water in the M., and no water at all running in the asmaks, the lowest part of these rivers is filled with salt-water. The mouth of the M. then forms a large lake with a small outlet, which by the current of the Hellespont is turned to the left. The next lagoon, receiving no water from the streams, is obstructed by a low sandy bank. It is very deep, and on a level with the sea; and if an opening were made in the bank, would form a good harbour for small vessels. At certain seasons the sea breaks through the channel, and the water rushes into the lake with great velocity. The beds of the rivers which fall into these lakes are a little above their junction with them; but are so deep, and their banks so high and steep, that the supposed formation of this part of the plain by alluvium during the last 4,000 years, is so far from being true, that it is much more probable, Dr. F. thinks, that during that time the bed of the river may have been deepened; and the land, instead of having increased, may have been taken away. The annual inundations are very extensive; and the plain in winter is often covered with ice so strong as to allow the passage of horses over it. Besides the annual alteration of the plains constantly taking place within the last three thousand years, it has been alleged that a very large dyke has been filled up by the accumulation of earth brought down from the mountains; and that the plain has not only advanced more than 2 m. in length, and nearly as much in breadth, but the main river also is supposed to have altered its course, having formerly entered the sea, not at Kum-kaleh, but near *Rhætan*. Dr. F. endeavours to prove these assertions to be without foundation. "How is it," he asks, "that the lakes existing at the extremity of the plain have not been filled up, and that no alteration takes place in them?" He admits that the plain is alluvial, and that it may increase in height, though not in a horizontal direction; but this increase in height, he contends, has been greatly overrated. He argues that the accumulation of the alluvial plain took place long before Mount Ida had risen from the sea, and that whatever accumulation may have taken place must have been lost again by the produce of the land, high winds, &c. With regard to *Ilum Recens*, he says

Strabo's account of it, as far as distances are concerned, is quite false; and that there is no way of making his statements agree with each other. The town, according to the Doctor, is, and always was, 25 stadia from the sea-shore; as is proved by the words of Scylax, a geographer anterior to Strabo by six centuries. The most considerable ruins, besides those of *Ilum Novum*, are the remains of an acropolis on the height of Bunarhashi, universally considered the site of Priam's capital. To the theory of Homeric topography of which the foregoing is an outline must be opposed that of another learned German professor, Dr. Ulrichs, who contends, from a personal investigation of the Troad in 1843, that there is preponderating evidence in favour of the opinion of Strabo as to the site of Troy. Dr. Ulrichs, in support of this view, identifies the M. with the *Scamander*, and the Dumbrek with the *Simois*. Ascending by the valley of the M. to Bunarhashi, Dr. U. found difficulties insuperable, in his estimation, to the view of Lechevallier and his disciples in favour of that site. He particularly remarks upon the impossibility of its having been either run round or surrounded by a chariot-way, as the usual interpretation of the Homeric narrative requires. From Bunarhashi he proceeded to the site of the *Pagus Ilionum*, now Achik Keui, where he professes to have found all the circumstances requisite to identify the spot with the village of the *Ilioneæ*, and consequently with the site of *Ilum*. The arguments in favour of this locality are these: The agreement of the relative distances between the city and the other principal objects in the plain with the Homeric account; the necessity of a watchman, as mentioned by Homer, to give notice of the approach of the Greeks; the facility of going round the city, as required on the same authority; the existence of a marsh in the vicinity; the tumuli of Hector and of the *Asætes* where the Homeric descriptions require them; the impossibility of perceiving the Greek camp from this site; the admeasurement of the site according with the area of ancient cities which may now be traced, as for example *Agamemnon's* capital; the description of the hill agreeing with Plato's testimony as being a low one, and with Homer's as an eminence in the plain; the supposition that Hercules came up the valley of the *Simois*, while *Leomedon* descended by that of the *Scamander*, thus passing each other without meeting.—The reader is referred for Dr. Forchhammer's paper, and an illustrative map, to the 12th vol. of the *Geographical Journal*; and for Dr. Ulrichs' views to 'An Excursus on the site of the Homeric *Ilum*,' in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature*.

MENDERSH (EL), a village in the oasis of El-Baheirah, on the W frontier of Egypt, to the SE of Zabn.

MENDES, a seaport of Asiatic Turkey, 20 m. S of Mileto.

MENDESILAM, a parish and small town in Suffolk, 15 m. N of Ipswich. Area of p. 3,944 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,233; in 1851, 1,442.

MENDHAM, a parish of Suffolk, 2 m. E by S of Harleston. Area 3,144 acres. Pop. 877.

MENDHAM, a township of Morris co., New Jersey, U. S., 56 m. N of Trenton. Pop. 1,378.

MENDICINO, a town of Naples, in Calabria Citra, 9 m. SW of Cosenza. Pop. 2,850.

MENDIG (UPPER and LOWER), two adjoining villages of the Prussian prov. of the Lower Rhine, circle of Mayon, 15 m. W of Coblenz. Pop. of Upper M. 1,150; of Lower M. 1,222. Millstones have been quarried in the vicinity from very early times.

MENDIGONIA, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 9 m. SSW of Pampeluna, near the r. bank of the Arga. Pop. 1,800.

MENDIONDE, a village of France, in the dep. of Basses-Pyrenees, cant. and 3 m. S of Hasparren, on the l. bank of the Gambany. Pop. 1,513.

MENDIORIM, a lake of Brazil, in the SW of the prov. of Mato-Grosso, to the W of the Paraguay, in S lat. 18° 20'.

MENDIP HILLS, a range of hills in Somersetshire, stretching nearly 24 m. from Frome on the E to Axbridge on the W. See SOMERSETSHIRE.

MENDOCAS. See MARQUESAS.

MENDOCINO (CAPE), a cape on the NW coast of America, formed by two high promontories about 10 m. apart. The southernmost, which is the highest, is situated in N lat. 40° 29', W long. 124° 29'.

MENDON, a township of Worcester co., Massachusetts, U. S., 33 m. SW of Boston. Pop. 3,524.—Also a township in Monroe co., New York, 12 m. S of Rochester. Pop. 3,435.—Also a township in Rutland co., in Vermont, 8 m. E of Rutland.



**MENDOZA**, a province of the La Plata confederation, stretching about 150 m. from N to S along the E side of the cordillera of the Andes, and nearly an equal distance from the Desaguadero on the E to the central ridge of the Andes on the W. Its nominal frontier-line on the S is the Dramanto river; on the N, its boundary is a line drawn E and W through the post-station of Chanar. Its productions are wine, brandy, raisins, figs, wheat, flour, hides, tallow, and soap; and it has mines of silver and of copper, with limestone, gypsum, alum, mineral pitch, and saline deposits. It is considerably in advance of Buenos Ayres in agriculture; and a great deal of its produce finds its way to the Plata in carts and on the backs of mules.—The cap., of the same name, is situated in S lat. 32° 52', W long. 69° 6', at an alt. of 4,891 ft., in a plain at the foot of the Andes. Its appearance is neat and cheerful, and it has an alameda or public walk nearly a mile in length. The mountains rise up on one side a mile or two off, and between them and the town are vineyards, meadows, and tobacco-fields; while beyond the first range of mountains are to be seen the snowy ridges of the Andes, in which Tupungato forms the principal feature. The houses are of one story, with flat roofs; and, in common with the churches, are built of sun-dried bricks. The silver mine in its vicinity, named Uspallata, has added largely to its trade and pop.; and the district around contains silver, copper, and lead mines. Its present pop. is about 12,000.

**MENDOZA**, a large river of South America, which rises on the E slope of the Andes, in the Cuebas and Tupungato; and running NE, forms the Guanaache lakes in the plains; whence it issues under the name of Desaguadero, and finally enters the Atlantic under the name of Colorado. See **DESAGUADERO**.

**MENDOZA**, a village of Spain, in the prov. and 5 m. WSW of Vittoria.

**MENDRA**, a small island in the Indian sea, near the coast of Africa, in S lat. 2° 15'.

**MENDRAH**, a district of Fezzan, in Africa, with a cap. of the same name. Its soil is generally hard and barren; but the quantity of *trona*, a species of fossil alkali which floats on the surface and settles on the banks of several of its lakes, gives it a commercial importance. Great quantities of this substance are brought by the merchants of Fezzan to be shipped at Tripoli. It is used in Morocco as an ingredient in the red dye of leather.

**MENDRISIO**, or **MENDRIS**, a town of Switzerland, in the cant. of Ticino, at the foot of the Alps, 7 m. W of the town of Como. Pop. 1,972. It has silk and paper mills.

**MENDY**, properly **MAENDIGAUT**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Agra, on the W bank of the Ganges, 5 m. S of Kanoje, in N lat. 27° 2'. Indigo is cultivated and manufactured in the neighbourhood.

**MENEAC**, a commune and village of France, in the dep. of Morbihan, cant. of Trinité. Pop. 3,425.

**MENEEKA**, a village of Sind, on the l. bank of the Narra, and 40 m. N of Schwan.

**MENEHOULD (SAINT)**, or **SAINT-MANEHOULD**, an arrondissement, canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Marne. The arrond. comprises an area of 110,621 hect., and contains 3 cants. Pop. in 1831, 34,952; in 1841, 36,215. The cant. comprises 36 coms. Pop. in 1831, 14,982; in 1841, 15,564. The town is 29 m. NE of Chalons-sur-Marne, and 45 m. E of Rheims, on the Aisne, at the junction of the Aube, and at an alt. of 423 ft. above sea-level. Pop. in 1789, 2,600; in 1821, 3,881; in 1831, 3,906; in 1841, 4,131. This town is of great antiquity, and was formerly fortified. In 1719 it was to a great extent destroyed by fire, and has since

been substantially rebuilt in stone and brick, and on a uniform plan. It has a handsome town-house, several schools, and fine promenades. It possesses manufactories of serge, common lace, leather, baskets, and spinning-wheels; and in the environs are several forges, and extensive glass and china-works. The trade, which is considerable, consists chiefly in wood, staves, corn, rye, and oats. M. has sustained repeated sieges. It was last taken by Louis XIV. in 1653.

**MENERANDRE**, a river of Madagascar, in the S part of the island. It has its source in the district of Iscenimbalala; runs SSW between the districts of Mahafaly and Androy; and, after a course of 105 m., throws itself into the Indian ocean 42 m. WNW of Cape Sainte Marie.

**MENERLEES**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of Vaucluse, cant. and 6 m. W of Bonnioux, on a height. Pop. 1,750. It has a silk-mill. This town is supposed to be the Machao of Gregory the Great.

**MENES**, a village of Hungary, in the comitat and 14 m. ESE of Arad. It is noted for its wine.

**MENESES**, a town of Spain, in Leon, in the prov. and 23 m. WSW of Palencia, and partido of Frechilla. Pop. 802.

**MENET**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Cantal, cant. of Riom-es-Montagne. Pop. 2,317.

**MENETHORPE**, a township in the p. of Weston, E. R. of Yorkshire, 3 m. SSW of New Malton. Area 420 acres. Pop. in 1831, 126; in 1851, 110.

**MENETON-SUR-CHER**, a town of France, in the dep. of the Loir-et-Cher, 9 m. SE of Ramorantin, on the r. bank of the Cher. Pop. 800. It has an old castle. Parchment and hosiery form its chief articles of manufacture.

**MENETON-COUTURE**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Cher, cant. and 6 m. NE of Nerondes. Pop. 680. It has several iron-mines and forges.

**MENETON-SALON**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Cher, and cant. of Saint-Martin, 20 m. WSW of Sancerre, near the source of the Moulon-d'Auxigny. Pop. 2,497. It has manufactories of serge, a distillery of brandy, and an oil-mill; and carries on a considerable trade in wood, wine, and brandy.

**MENGEDÉ**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of Westphalia, in the reg. and 35 m. WNW of Arensburg, circle and 6 m. NW of Dortmund. Pop. 752.

**MENGEN**, an ancient town of Württemberg, in the circle of the Danube, bail. and 9 m. WNW of Saulgau, on the Ablach. Pop. (Cath.) in 1840, 2,044. It contains 2 churches and an hospital, and has a manufactory of cloth. Tobacco is cultivated in the environs.

**MENGERINGHAUSEN**, a town of the principality and 14 m. N of Waldeck, and district of Twiste. Pop. 1,743.

**MENGERSGEREUT**, a village of the duchy of Saxe-Meiningen, in the bail. of Saalfeld, and to the E of Schalkau. Pop. 355.

**MENGERSKIRCHEN**, a market-town of the duchy of Nassau, in the bail. and 12 m. NW of Weilburg. Pop. 950. It has a castle.

**MENGES (SAINT)**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Ardennes, cant. and 3 m. N of Sedan. Pop. 1,110.

**MENGLON**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Drome, cant. and 3 m. SSW of Chatillon, and 5 m. SSE of Die. Pop. 750.

**MENGUL**, a state of the island of Bali, in the Sunda archipelago. It is governed by an independent rajah, and is estimated to contain a male adult pop. of 20,000.

**MENGUIS**, or **MEANGIS**, a small group of islands

in the North Pacific, in the Philippine archipelago, to the NE of the Salibabo islands, in N lat. 5°, E long. 127° 20'. The principal island in the group is named Namusa.

**MENHARDSDORF.** See **MANNERSDORF.**

**MENHENOTT**, a parish of Cornwall, 2½ m. ESE of Liskeard, and E of the little river Seaton. Area 6,997 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,253; in 1851, 1,944.

**MENHOUSA**, an oasis of small extent in the kingdom of Tripoli, in the E part of Tripoli Proper, 24 m. SW of the oasis of Maradeh.

**MENIDI**, or **AKHARNAI**, a town of Greece, in the dio. of Attica, to the N of Athens. It occupies the place of the ancient *Acharnes*.

**MENIEH.** See **MINIEH.**

**MENIEGOUTTE**, a canton and commune of France, in the dep. of the Deux-Sevres, and arrond. of Parthenay. The cant. comprises 10 coms. Pop. in 1831, 7,860; in 1841, 8,396. The town is 15 m. SE of Parthenay, near the source of the Vonne. Pop. 911. It has a well-endowed hospital.

**MENIKION**, a mountain of Turkey in Europe, in Rumelia, at the SE extremity of the sanj. of Ghiustendil, and 60 m. NE of Salonica. It is the ancient *Cercina*.

**MENIL**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Mayenne, cant. and 5 m. S of Chateau-Gontier, on the r. bank of the Mayenne. Pop. 1,450.—Also a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Brabant, and dep. of Braine-l'Alleud. Pop. 296.—Also a commune in the prov. of Luxembourg, and dep. of Hottent. Pop. 108.

**MENIL (LE)**, or **LE MESNIL**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Maine-et-Loire, cant. and 5 m. E of Saint Florent-le-Vieil, near the l. bank of the Loire. Pop. 2,223.—Also a village in the dep. of the Vosges, cant. and 3 m. NE of Ramonchamp. Pop. 1,250.

**MENIL-AMELOT (LE)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Marne, and cant. of Dammarin. Pop. 657.

**MENIL-AUZOUF**, or **MESNIL-AUZOUF**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Calvados and cant. of Aulnay-sur-Odon. Pop. 670.

**MENIL-ESNARD (LE)**, or **MESNIL-ESNARD (LE)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Seine-Inferieure, cant. and 4 m. NW of Boos, and 3 m. SE of Rouen. Pop. 1,122.

**MENIL-SUR-L'ESTREE**, or **MESNIL-SUR-L'ESTREE**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Eure, cant. and 8 m. from Nonancourt, and 24 m. S of Evreux, on the Avre. Pop. 556. It has extensive paper-mills and printing establishments.

**MENIL-HERME**, a village of France in the dep. of the Orne, and cant. of Putanges, 17 m. W of Argentan, on the l. bank of the Orne. Pop. 1,100.

**MENIL-LA-HORGNE**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Meuse, and cant. of Void, 5 m. S of Commercy. Pop. 380.

**MENIL-HUBERT-SUR-ORNE (LE)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Orne, cant. and 6 m. NNE of Athis, and 23 m. N of Domfront. Pop. 1,308. It has manufactories of dimitty and other varieties of cotton fabrics, and several tanneries.

**MENIL-SUR-OGER**, or **MESNIL-SUR-OGRE (LE)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Marne, cant. and 2 m. S of Avize, and 8 m. SSE of Epernay. Pop. 1,252. The locality produces good wine.

**MENIL-THOMAS (LE)**, a village in the dep. of the Eure-et-Loire, and cant. of Senonches. Pop. 720. It has an iron-foundry, a pottery, and several lime-kilns.

**MENILDOT**, a hamlet of France, in the dep. of the Manche, cant. of Marigny, and com. of La-Cha-

pelle-en-Jugur. It has a valuable mine of quick-silver.

**MENILLES**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Eure, and cant. of Pacy-sur-Eure, 12 m. E of Evreux, near the r. bank of the Eure. Pop. 1,008.

**MENILMOUTANT**, a hamlet of France, in the dep. of the Seine, and com. of Belleville, within the fortifications to the NE of Paris. Pop. 3,600.

**MENIMEN**, a town of Turkey in Asia, in Anatolia, in the sanj. of Sarukhan, 24 m. W of Manika, and 17 m. NNW of Smyrna. It is the ancient *Tennos*.

**MENIN**, or **MEENEN**, a department, commune, and town of Belgium, in the prov. of West Flanders, arrond. and 8 m. WSW of Courtrai, and 12 m. N of Lille, on the l. bank of the Lys, by which it is separated from France. Pop. 7,533. It is well-built and strongly fortified, and has manufactories of plain and table linen, lace, linseed and colza oil, soap and tobacco, numerous breweries, several wool-spinning mills, extensive bleacheries, and several tanneries. The trade, which is considerable, consists chiefly in cattle, grain, linen, and tobacco. In the latter article it is one of the chief centres of contraband trade with France. This town returns a deputy to the provincial states. Previous to 1350, M. was a place of little importance. It was then added by purchase to the domains of the count of Flanders. In 1578 it was fortified. In 1658 it was taken by Turenne, and ceded by the treaty of the Pyrenees to Spain. In 1667 it was again taken by the French, and, after having repeatedly changed hands, was ultimately secured to France in 1794, and its fortifications have since been restored.

**MENINGUENE**, a town of the captainry-general of Mozambique, in the gov. of Cabo-del-Gado, or the channel of Mozambique, in S lat. 10° 50'.

**MENITREE (LA)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Maine-et-Loire, and cant. of Les-Ponts-de-Cé. Pop. 2,117.

**MENJIBAR**, a town of Spain, in Andalusia, in the prov. and 13 m. NNE of Jaen, partido and 14 m. ESE of Andujar, on the road from Madrid to Granada, and near the l. bank of the Guadalquivir, in a fine locality. Pop. 1,502. It is supposed to have been founded by the Arabs, and in the midst of a square is a lofty square tower apparently of Gothic structure. It has a parish-church, several convents, an elementary school, an hospital, a custom-house, and a public granary. Its trade consists chiefly in cattle.

**MENJILLE**, a town of Persia, in the prov. of Ghilan, at the junction of the Shabrud with the Seifeid-Rud or White river, 40 m. SSW of Reshd. It consists of about 60 houses, and has an active trade in oil and soap.

**MENLIK**, or **MELENIK**, a town of Asiatic Turkey, in the sanj. of Ghiustendil, 18 m. SSW of Demirhissar, on the l. bank of the Vistritza.

**MENMUIR**, a parish of Dorsetshire, skirting the p. of Brechin on the NW. Pop. in 1801, 949; in 1851, 693.

**MENNECY**, a commune and village of France, in the dep. of Seine-et-Oise, cant. and 4 m. S of Corbal, near the r. bank of the Juine. Pop. 1,244.

**MENNETOU-SUR-CHER**, a canton and village of France, in the dep. of Loir-et-Cher, arrond. of Romorantin. Pop. of cant. 5,324; of com. 950.

**MENNEVRET**, a commune and village of France, in the arrond. and 19 m. NW of Vervins, cant. of Wassigny. Pop. in 1841, 1,979.

**MENNIGHUFEN**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. and 10 m. WSW of Minden. Pop. 2,211. It has considerable thread factories.

**MENNIKOIL**, a village of Russia, in the gov. of Esthonia, 15 m. WSW of Weseenberg.

**MENNU**, a river of Trans-Gangetic India, which rises to the S of Cassay; runs W and SW; and joins the Fenny, on the r. bank, on the N frontier of Chit-tagong, after a course of 150 m.

**MENOMONEE**, a river of Michigan, U. S., which rises in the county to the S of Lake Superior, and running E by S, enters Green bay of Lake Michigan, in about 44° 46' N, after a course of about 100 m.

**MENOR (ISLA)**, an island formed by the Guadalquivir, in the prov. of Seville, and 15 m. S of Seville. It is about 12 m. in length from N to S, and 6 m. in breadth.

**MENORCA**. See **MINORCA**.

**MENOU**, a village of France, in the dep. of La Nièvre, cant. and 6 m. W of Varzy. Pop. 748.

**MENOUX (SAINT)**, a commune and village of France, in the dep. of Allier, 8 m. W of Moulins, on the r. bank of the Ours, an affluent of the Allier.

**MENOVZAT**, or **MELAS**, a river of Asiatic Turkey, in the pash. of Itsbil, and sanj. of Alaya, descending from the S flank of the Taurus, and flowing SW into the gulf of Satalieh;—near its r. bank, and 45 m. WNW of Alaya, is a v. of the same name.

**MENS**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of Isère, 27 m. S of Grenoble, on the Veauve. Pop. of cant. 7,800; of town 2,126. It is the seat of a Calvinist consistory, and a Protestant normal school.

**MENSFELDEN**, a village in the duchy of Nassau, 2 m. SSW of Limburg. Pop. 1,012.

**MENSHEIH (EL)**, a town of Upper Egypt, in the prov. and 12 m. NNW of Girgeh, on the l. bank of the Nile. It possesses a Coptic church, has a large cotton-factory belonging to the government, and several nitre-works, and carries on an active trade. Boats ascending the river to the cataracts take in provisions here. The banks of the river are here covered with palm-trees and melons. In the environs are the ruins of the ancient *Ptolemais-Hermi*.

**MENSIGNAC**, a village of France, in the dep. of Dordogne, 8 m. NW of Périgueux. Pop. 1,058.

**MENSINGEN**, a village of Baden, in the bail. and 8 m. N of Bretten. Pop. 1,370.

**MENSTRIE**, a village of Stirlingshire, in the p. of Logie, 3 m. ENE of Stirling. Pop. 518. It has a large woollen manufactory.

**MENTANA**, a village of the Papal states, 12 m. NE of Rome, on the site of the ancient *Nomentum*.

**MENTESHA**, a sanj. of Asiatic Turkey; bounded on the N by the sanj. of Aidin, from which it is separated by the *Mençese-Buyuk*; on the NE by Kermeian and Hamid-Ili; on the E by Tekeli; on the SE by Mers; and on the S and W by the Mediterranean. Its coasts present the gulfs of Assem-Kalasi, Cos, and Symia, and the bay of Marmorica. It is a woody rugged district, and comprises a great part of the ancient *Caria* and *Lycia*.—Its cap., of the same name, is situated on the S coast of the gulf of Assem-Kalasi, 9 m. NNW of Budrun.

**MENTHON**, a village of the Sardinian states, in the prov. of Geneva, 4 m. SE of Annecy. Pop. 700.

**MENTON**, or **MENTONE**, a town of the principality and 6 m. NE of Monaco, beautifully situated on the Mediterranean, at the foot of a range of low hills covered with olives, on a promontory advancing into the sea. It is of considerable extent, and has a large quay bordered on one side with tall stone houses of 7 or 8 stories. Above these rise others built on the rocky eminence which forms the centre of the town; and the cathedral, with two or three other churches, painted in rich and varied colours, crowns the whole. Pop. 4,000. Its port possesses 53 small vessels, which

trade with Genoa and Certe, chiefly in oranges, citrons, and oil. On the 2d of September, 1852, the prince of Monaco took a public protest against a decision of the tribunal of Nice to the effect that this town and commune had become subject to the authority of the king of Sardinia; and appealed to the 'Great Powers which guaranteed the treaties of 1815,' against the measure. See **MONACO**.

**MENTRIDA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 32 m. NW of Guadalaxara, on the Valcornejo. Pop. 2,800.

**MENTZ**. See **MATENCE**.

**MENTZ**, a township of Cayuga co., in the state of New York, U. S., 8 m. NNW of Auburn, on the Erie canal. Pop. 4,215.

**MENUF**, or **MENOUF**, a province of Lower Egypt, on the S part of the Delta, watered by the canals of Chibon, Melig, and Menuf.—Its cap., of the same name, is situated about 25 m. from the bifurcation of the river, on the canal of M., which unites the main eastern and the main western deltoid branches of the Nile, but which has ceased to be navigable since it became necessary to form a dyke across it, for the purpose of preventing the too copious influx of water. The pop. has been estimated at nearly 10,000, and it is said to occupy one of the healthiest sites in Egypt; but it is ill-built, with narrow and crooked streets, and presents no important remains of antiquity. The government has indigo works here; and mats from rushes collected in the valley of Natron are extensively manufactured. The principal crops in the neighbourhood are wheat, barley, maize, rice, lentiles, and lupines; a few melons, water-melons, and cucumbers are raised; but generally speaking, the vicinity is destitute of fruit, which can only be procured from a considerable distance.—Also a village of Lower Egypt, on Lake Mareotis, 14 m. SE of Alexandria.

**MENUGAT**, a small town of Caramania, in Asiatic Turkey, on a river of the same name which falls into the gulf of Satalieh, 21 m. W of Alanieh.

**MENZALEH**, an extensive lake of Lower Egypt, extending along the coast, to the E of the Damietta branch of the Nile. In the opinion of Andreossi, it occupies the space formerly traversed by the Tanitic, Mendesian, and Pelusiac branches of the Nile, and has been formed in consequence of their failure; but some suppose it to have been formed by the depression of a tract in the N part of the Delta, several feet below its former level, and that has taken place within the last 1,500 years. It begins about 14 m. from Damietta, and extends nearly 43 m. from ESE to WNW, and from 11 to 12 m. in breadth NE and SW, or from the sea to the land side. It is divided by the projecting peninsula upon which the town is built into two large gulfs, and separated from the sea by a long and narrow sandbank or tongue of land. The general depth of the water is rarely under 4 ft., and seldom materially above it; except where the ancient Mendesian and Tanitic branches are supposed to have flowed. The water is considerably less salt than that of the sea, and during the inundations is sweet. The shores are in some places covered with immense reeds from 10 to 20 ft. high, and in other quarters under cultivation for rice. The bottom consists generally of sand and slime, or slime and cockle-shells; sometimes of clay and black mud. The lake abounds in fish of the same kinds as are found in the Mediterranean; and water-fowl frequent it in vast flocks. It communicates with the sea by two practicable mouths, those of Dybeh or the Mendesian mouth, and Omm-Faredge or the Tanitic mouth. On its W side it is connected with the principal eastern branch of the Nile by several natural canals. There is a vast number of small grassy islands



in the lake; but none are inhabited except those of Matarieh at the extremity of the peninsula on which the town of M. stands. Some of them, however, are covered with ruins, which indicate that they were formerly inhabited, and that they belonged to a tract of land now covered by the waves. The fishermen on the lake, and the Beduins who inhabit the surrounding villages, are extremely rude and ignorant,—"a savage half-amphibious race." Their boats are of a broad and sharp construction beneath, so as to give speed with little draught of water. They are from 6 to 20 tons burthen, and are usually propelled by poles against the bottom instead of oars when the wind is not favourable to sails. The environs of the lake are fertile in rice; and the neighbourhood contains marshes from which a considerable quantity of salt is extracted.—The town of M., situated on the S shore of the lake, 20 m. SSE of Damietta, is inconsiderable, and partly ruined; but possesses some manufactories of silk and sail-cloth, contains a few dyers, and carries on some trifling branches of trade. It is supposed to occupy the site of *Panephytis*.

**MENZELA**, a river of Russia, in the gov. of Orenburg, rising 9 m. SE of Alexandrovskaja, and flowing N to the Ik, which it joins on the l. bank, after a course of 72 m.

**MENZELINSK**, a town of Asiatic Russia, in the gov. of Orenburg, 132 m. WNW of Oufa, on the l. bank of the Menzela. Pop. 3,000.

**MENZIES (POINT)**, a cape on the W coast of North America, in N lat. 52° 18'.

**MENZINGEN**, or **MENZIGEN**, a village of Switzerland, in the cant. and 4 m. E of Zug, the chief place of one of the four communes of that cant. Pop. 2,112.—Also a village in the grand-duchy of Baden, 6 m. N of Bretten.

**MEOLANS**, a commune and village of France, in the dep. of Basses-Alpes, 6 m. W of Barcelonnette. Pop. 1,364.

**MEOLE-BRACE**, a parish of Salop, 2 m. distant from Shrewsbury. Pop. in 1851, 1,174.

**MEOLS (NORTH)**, a parish of Lancashire, 7 m. NNW of Ormskirk. Area 24,541 acres. Pop. 9,319.

**MEON (STROKE)**, a parish of Southamptonshire, 4 m. ENE of Bishop's Waltham. Area 2,050 acres. Pop. in 1841, 459; in 1851, 431.

**MEON (WEST)**, a parish of Southamptonshire, 7½ m. NE of Bishop's Waltham. Area 3,728 acres. Pop. in 1841, 814; in 1851, 901.

**MEOPHAM**, a parish of Kent, 6 m. W by S of Rochester. Area 4,693 acres. Pop. in 1851, 1,045.

**MEPAL**, a parish in Cambridgeshire, 6½ m. WNW of Ely. Area 1,452 acres. Pop. in 1851, 559.

**MEPPEL**, a town of Holland, in the small prov. of Drenthe, on the Havelter-Aa, 15 m. NNE of Zuolle. Pop. 6,070. It has manufactories of strong canvass and sail-cloth.

**MEPPEN**, a circle and town of Hanover, in the NW part of the gov. of Osnabruck, intersected from S to N by the Ems.—The town is 52 m. NW of Munster, on the Ems. Pop. 1,351. It has manufactories of soap and bleachfields.

**MEPPERSHALL**, a parish of Bedfordshire, 3 m. SSW of Bedford. Area 1,949 acres. Pop. 503.

**MEQUINENZA**, a town of Spain, in the prov. of Lerida, at the confluence of the Segre, the Cinca, and the Ebro, 19 m. SSW of Lerida. It was known to the Romans under the names of *Octogessa* and *Ictosa*. Pop. 1,600.

**MEQUINEZ**, a large city of Morocco, in the prov. of Fez, and 22 m. W by S of the city of Fez, in N lat. 33° 56', W long. 5° 59', situated in a fine plain watered by numerous rivulets. It is surrounded with a wall 15 ft. high and 3 ft. thick, which serves as a defence against the Berbers, or inhabitants of the

mountains, who often make incursions even to its gates. The inhabitants, who are reckoned more polished and hospitable than those of the other cities of Morocco, have been computed by some at 50,000; by others at 100,000. An hospital or convent was founded here by the kings of Spain. It owes its greatness to Muley Ismael, who, resolving to make it the cap. of the N of Morocco had been of the S part of his dominions, considerably enlarged it and erected a fine palace.

**MER**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Loir-et-Cher, and arrond. of Blois. The cant. comprises 11 com. Pop. in 1831, 11,387; in 1841, 11,716.—The town, which is also called *Mer-la-Ville* and *Menars-la-Ville*, is 12 m. NE of Blois, and 26 m. SW of Orleans, on a rivulet named the Tronne, and 1½ m. from the r. bank of the Loire. Pop. in 1841, 3,686. It has several wax-works, extensive distilleries of brandy and manufactories of vinegar; and in the environs are numerous tanneries, flour-mills, and quarries of free-stone. The trade consists chiefly in wine, brandy, and vinegar, all of local produce. At the neighbouring hamlet of Aunay is a Calvinist consistorial church.—Also a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and dep. of Petit-Roeuls. Pop. 112.

**MER**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Kutch, 60 m. NW of Mandavie, and on the road thence to Luckput-Bunder.—Also a mountain in the Punjab, in about N lat. 34°, E long. 76°, close to which rises another of similar conical outline called *Ser*. Hugel says that he could plainly distinguish both from Vizirabad, at a distance of 140 m.; if so, the height of these twin giants must be immense. He also states that, while Mer is always covered with snow, Ser is quite bare and black.

**MERADA**, or **MERHADA**, an island of the Bahr-el-Abiad, in Nubia, in the district of Burum or Gebel-Fungi, 5 m. N of Aleis.

**MERAGER**, a village of Norway, in the prov. of N. Drontheim, on the W flank of the Kendsalsfjeld.

**MERAL**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Mayenne, cant. and 4 m. WNW of Cossale-Vivien, and 14 m. NW of Château-Gontier, near an affluent of the Oudon. Pop. 1,357.

**MERAN**, a town of Austria, in the Tyrol, in the ldgb. of Innspruck, circle and 13 m. NW of Botzen, at the confluence of the Pfelderer with the Adige, and at an alt. of 319 yds. above sea-level. Pop. 2,300. It has a gymnasium, an English ladies' seminary, and 2 monasteries. The environs contain mines of iron and several mineral springs, and are noted for their fruit and wine. In the vicinity is the ancient fortress of the Tyrol, which gave its name to a duchy of which M. was the capital.

**MERANE**, or **MEHRANA**, a town of Saxony, in the circle of Zwickau, seignory and 5 m. WNW of Glauchau, and 22 m. W of Chemnitz, on the r. bank of the Seiferitz. Pop. in 1834, 4,172. It has manufactories of woollen fabrics.

**MERAPIA**, a volcano of Java, in the central part of the island, in the district of Kadoe, 30 m. W of Souracarta. It was in violent eruption from the 14th to 17th Sept. 1849.

**MERAS**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Ariège, and cant. of Mas-d'Azil. Pop. 150. Copper in small quantities is found in an adjacent mountain.

**MERASSE**, a district of Arabia, in Yemen, in the N part of the territory of Hachid and Bekil.

**MERAT**, or **MIRUT**, a town of Hindostan, in the doab of the Ganges and Jumna, 34 m. NE of Delhi. It is one of the pleasantest stations in Upper India. The barracks are on an important scale, and the cantonments have a more than usually imposing ap-

pearance. The climate is good; the cold of winter is particularly invigorating. The town, an old and dirty one, lies 2 m. to the S of the cantonments. In 1019 it offered an heroic though ineffectual resistance to Mahmud of Ghizni, then upon his march against Kuniooge. In the early part of the 13th cent. it was invested by the army of Turma-Kurrim-Khan, a descendant of Genghis-Khan; but the good fortune and courage of the garrison this time prevailed, and the besiegers were driven off, after suffering immense loss. In 1399, when Timur had rendered his name terrible throughout India by carrying pillage and bloodshed into the proud city of Delhi itself, the people of M. laughed to scorn that warrior's ambassadors, and returned a message to the effect that they who had repulsed the attacks of so great a person as Turma-Kurrim-Khan could be little intimidated by so obscure a pretender as Timur. As a mark of his vengeance, Timur, on gaining the city, gave it up to the plunder of his troops, and with his own hand planted a torch in the most combustible place on the windward side. The conflagration spread even to the last house, consuming all but the citadel and fortifications, which were partially overthrown by the soldiers; but some were found so solid as to defy their utmost efforts, and are standing at this moment. Beyond these shapeless remains, patched and refitted when the town was subsequently rebuilt, there is nothing within the walls to interest the traveller; but in the neighbourhood there are several Mahomedan tombs and ruined mosques which attract notice. One of these called by the people of the place Abu's Muhkburra, or 'the resting-place' or 'tomb of Abu,' is a very beautiful mausoleum.

**MERATE**, a market-town of Austria, in Lombardy, in the prov. and SE of Como. Pop. 2,000.

**MERAWI**. See **MEROE**.

**MERBES-LE-CHATEAU**, a department, commune, and town of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and arrond. of Charleroi. The town is 17 m. SW of Charleroi, on the l. bank of the Sambre. Pop. 1,050.

**MERBES-SAINTE-MARIE**, a department, commune, and town of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and arrond. of Charleroi. Pop. of dep. 550; of com. 375.

**MERBIDERY**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Canara, 17 m. NE of Mangalore. It is inhabited chiefly by Jains, and contains several handsome pagodas belonging to that sect. This town appears, from the ruins which surround it, to have once been a place of considerable importance.

**MERBRAINE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, dep. of Braine-l'Alleud. Pop. 187.

**MERCADAL**, a town of Minorca, Balearic islands, in the partido and 12 m. NW of Mahon, and 90 m. ENE of Palma, near Mount Toro. Pop. 4,000.

**MERCADOR**, or **MERCADERES**, a town of New Granada, in the dep. of the Cauca, 72 m. SW of Popayan.

**MERCARA**, a town and fortress of Hindostan, in the presidency of Madras, prov. of Malabar, and div. of Kurg, 90 m. N of Calicut, and 66 m. W of Seringapatam, on the E side of the Western Ghats. The fort stands on a rising ground surrounded by hills, and is an irregular pentagon, with towers, bastions, and a small work to cover the gateway on the E side, —the whole surrounded by 2 ditches, of which the outer is filled with water. Within the fort is the palace of the raja. This town was built by Hyder-Ali in 1773, during the captivity of the raja of the district. By the treaty of 1792, Kurg was ceded by Tippu-Saib to the raja, and placed under British protection.

**MERCATAJE**, a town of the grand-duchy of Tuscany, in the prov. and 12 m. S of Florence.

**MERCATELLO**, a market-town of the Pontifical states, in the delegation and 16 m. WSW of Urbino, on the r. bank of the Metauro. Pop. 1,500.

**MERCATO**, a village of Naples, in the prov. of Abruzzo-Ultra, district and 14 m. SE of Civita-Ducale, and 17 m. WSW of Aquila. Pop. 190.

**MERCATO-SARACENO**, a market-town of the Pontifical states, in the legation and 21 m. SSE of Forli, on the l. bank of the Savio. Pop. 4,000.

**MERCER**, a county in the W part of the state of New Jersey, U. S., watered by Assumpink creek, and skirted by the Delaware on the SW. Area 260 sq. m. Pop. in 1840, 21,502; in 1850, 27,991. Its cap. is Trenton.—Also a co. in the W part of Pennsylvania, watered by Shenango creek. Area 850 sq. m. Pop. in 1840, 32,873; in 1850, 33,070. Its cap., of the same name, is 57 m. N by W of Pittsburg. Pop. in 1840, 781.—Also a co. in the SW part of Virginia, watered by Bluestone river, and branches of New river. Pop. in 1840, 2,232; in 1850, 4,223. Its cap. is Princeton.—Also a central co. of Kentucky, watered by headstreams of Salt river. Area 225 sq. m. Pop. in 1840, 18,720; in 1850, 14,003. Its cap. is Harrodsburg.—Also a co. in the W part of Ohio. Area 576 sq. m. Pop. in 1840, 8,277; in 1850, 7,712. Its cap. is Selina. Its surface is remarkably level, and is drained by the St. Mary and the Wabash.—Also a co. in the NW part of Illinois, skirted by the Mississippi. Area 550 sq. m. Pop. in 1840, 2,352; in 1850, 5,255. Its cap. is Millersburg.—Also a township in Somerset co., in Maine, 34 m. NNW of Augusta. Pop. 1,432.—Also a township in Butler co., in Pennsylvania. Pop. 1,233.

**MERCERSBURG**, a town in Franklin co., Pennsylvania, U. S., 15 m. SW of Chambersburg, on a branch of the Conococheague. Pop. 1,143.

**MERCHINGEN**, a town of the grand-duchy of Baden, bail, and 4 m. SE of Osterburken. Pop. 1,080.

**MERCHTEM**, a town of Belgium, in the prov. of S. Brabant, 9 m. NW of Brussels. Pop. 3,500.

**MERCKEN**, a village of Rhenish Prussia, in the reg. and 15 m. ENE of Aix-la-Chapelle.

**MERCKHEM**, a village of Belgium, in the prov. of W. Flanders, 12 m. SE of Furnes. Pop. 3,320.

**MERCEUR**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of La Corrèze, arrond. and 21 m. SE of Tulle. Pop. of cant. in 1841, 8,431; of com. 1,035.—Also a village in the dep. of Haute-Loire, cant. and 6 m. NW of La Voulte.

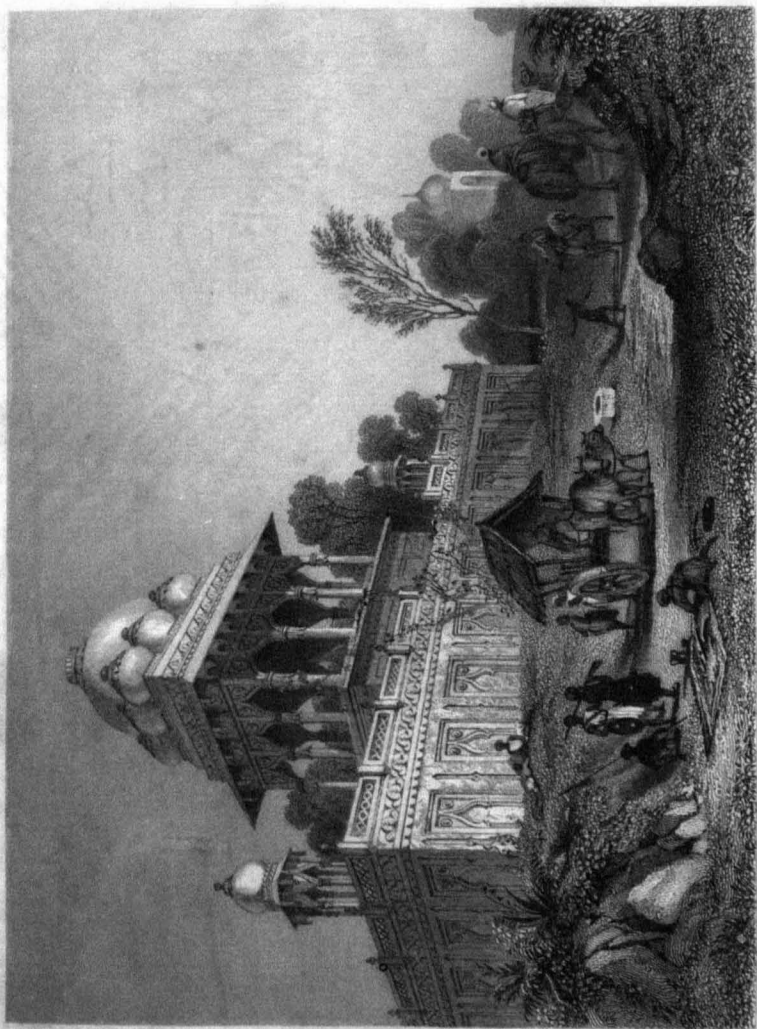
**MERCOGLIANO**, a town of Naples, in the prov. of Principato-Ultra, 3 m. W of Avellino. Pop. 3,000.

**MERCUER**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Ardèche and cant. of Aubenas, 24 m. S of Privas. Pop. 1,406.

**MERCUREY**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Saône-et-Loire, cant. and 5 m. NNW of Givry, and 9 m. NW of Chalons-sur-Saône. Pop. 460. In early times there existed here a temple dedicated to Mercury. The locality is noted for its wine.

**MERCUROL**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Drome, cant. of Tain, 12 m. N of Valence. Pop. 1,104. It affords excellent wine.

**MERCURY**, a bay, headland, and river of New Zealand, on the NE side of the island of Eabeino-Mauwe or New-Ulster, in a peninsula formed by the Shuraki gulf or Frith of the Thames, and Bay of Planeta. The bay is in S lat. 36° 48', E long. 175° 45'. It was so named by Cook, who here observed the transit of Mercury over the sun in 1769. At the entrance, on the N side, is Mercury point; and extending thence ENE is a group of islands of the same name. The river has its source in the range of mountains by which the peninsula is intersected



Engraved by T. B. Smith.  
Drawn by C. D. Smith from a sketch by T. B. Smith, Esq.

ABUS TOMB, NERA.

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longitudinally; and running NNE, flows into the bay on the S side.

**MERCURY-GEMELLY**, a town of Sardinia, in the div. of Savoy, prov. of Upper Savoy, mand. and 3 m. W of Confians. Pop. 1,870.

**MERCY BAY**, an inlet on the NE corner of Baring island, in N lat.  $74^{\circ} 6'$ , and W long.  $117^{\circ} 45'$ , in which Captain M'Lure's exploring vessel, 'Investigator,' was frozen in, on 24th Sept. 1851, and still remained when last heard of, on 21st May 1853.

**MERDERET**, a river of France, in the dep. of the Manche, which has its source about a mile NW of Valognes; runs SE; and after a course of about 27 m. joins the Douve, on the l. bank. It is navigable at high tide, a distance of about 5 m.

**MERD-LA-BREUILLE (SAINT)**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Creuse, cant. and 10 m. NE of La Courtoine, and 21 m. SE of Aubusson. Pop. 1,235.

**MERDIN**. See **MARDIN**.

**MERDO**, a town of Sumatra, on the N coast, in the kingdom and 90 m. ESE of Acheen.

**MERDORP**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Liege, and arrond. of Huy. Pop. of dep. 692; of com. 611.

**MERDRIGNAC**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Cotes-du-Nord, and arrond. of Loudéac. The cant. comprises 9 com. Pop. in 1831, 11,218; in 1841, 11,028. The town is 17 m. E of Loudéac, on the r. bank of the Livet. Pop. 2,855.

**MERDUCHEVSK**, a village of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Tambor, and district of Spask. It has extensive iron-works.

**MERE**, a parish and market-town of Wilts, 21 m. S by E of Bath. Area of p. 7,400 acres. Pop. in 1831, 2,708; in 1851, 2,991. The town is on the high road from Amesbury to Wincanton. The manufacture of ticking by hand-looms is carried on here.—Also a township in the p. of Rosthern, Cheshire,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. NW by N of Knutsford. Area 2,438 acres. Pop. in 1831, 552; in 1851, 583.

**MERE' (SAINT DENIS DE)**, a village of France, in the dep. of Calvados, cant. and 9 m. S of Harcourt. Pop. 1,000.

**MEREDITH**, a township of Belknap co., in the state of New Hampshire, U. S., 29 m. N of Concord, bounded on the E by Winnipiseogee lake. Pop. in 1840, 3,351. It contains a village of the same name.—Also a township of Delaware co., in the state of New York, 6 m. N of Delhi, and 79 m. WSW of Albany. It has a hilly surface, watered by Oleout creek, an affluent of Susquehanna river, and by affluents of the W branch of the Delaware. Pop. 1,640; of v. 100.

**MEREDOSIA**, a village of Morgan co., in the state of Illinois, U. S., 53 m. W of Springfield, on the E side of Illinois river, and 6 m. above Naples. It constitutes the port of Jacksonville. Pop. in 1840, 250.

**MERE-EGLISE (SAINTE)**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Manche, and arrond. of Valognes. The cant. comprises 26 com. Pop. in 1831, 13,182; in 1841, 13,154.—The town is 11 m. SE of Valognes. Pop. 1,740. It has a considerable trade in cattle and butter.

**MERE-ET-LES-FILLES (LA)**, (The mother and daughters,) three mountains in the N part of the island of New Britain, in the South Pacific, in S lat.  $4^{\circ} 20'$ , E long.  $151^{\circ} 50'$ .

**MERE-ET-SES-DEUX-FILLES (LA)**, (The mother and her two daughters,) three small islands in the Atlantic, on the coast of French Guayana, to the SE of Cayenne, in N lat.  $4^{\circ} 55'$ , and W long.  $52^{\circ} 25'$ .

V.

**MEREFA**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. and district and 17 m. SSW of Kharkov.

**MEREGA**, a town of Algeria, in the prov. of Oran, 69 m. SW of Algiers.

**MEREMONGAO**, or **MEREMENGAS**, an African nation, whose country lies to the N of that of Mono-Moezi, and about 3 months' journey from Mombas, behind the Wamijika. They are of small stature, well-made, and perfectly black, but have not the Negro appearance. Their dress consists of the skins of wild animals carelessly thrown over the left shoulder. By Dr. Krappf it has been ascertained that tribes of Gallas are settled as far S as  $2^{\circ}$  or  $3^{\circ}$  S lat.; and as from the researches of Dr. Beke it would appear that the Nile has its source in the mountains of Mono-Moezi, situate to the S of the line, it is probable that the primitive seat of the Gallas lay to the E of that river, and to the N of the country of Mono-Moezi, the Tulu-Woloh or 'Unknown mountains,' being a continuation of the high table-land from the E flank of which the various rivers issue which flow into the Indian ocean S of the equator. Bordering on the country of Mono-Moezi to the N, according to Mr. Cooley, is the nation of the M., who are known to the merchants on the coast as the great smiths and cutlers of Eastern Africa, and as the principal consumers of brass wire, which they wear twisted tightly round their arms. But the Gallas, not less than the M., are known in Abyssinia as skilful smiths and cutlers: and in Shoa—the inhabitants of which kingdom are Gallas—the custom prevails of wearing a number of brass rings, sometimes covering almost the entire forearm from the wrist to the elbow, which rings or bracelets are not removable at pleasure, but are tightly and permanently fixed on the arm by a smith. From all these circumstances Dr. Beke infers that the country of the M. is most probably the original seat of the Gallas. The traffic of the M. with Mombas is in ivory, skins, and rhinoceros' horns.

**MEREND**, or **MEHRAND**, a town of Persia, in Azerbajan, 36 m. NW of Taurus, and 45 m. ESE of Khoi. Pop. 10,000. This town is formed by the union of 4 villages, the houses of which are separated by gardens, in which cochineal, opium, apricots, and peaches are extensively cultivated.

**MERERAU**, a village of Austria, in the Vorarlberg, ldgh. of Innspruck, and circle of Bregenz, on Lake Constance. It contains the ruins of a Benedictine abbey.

**MERETCH**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. and 60 m. SW of Vilna, district and 45 m. SW of Nowo-Troki, at the confluence of a small river of the same name with the Niemen. Pop. 4,000, of whom about 500 are Jews. It has several churches, a Dominican convent, and a school.

**MEREVALE**, a parish partly in the co. of Leicestershire, and partly in that of Warwickshire,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. W by S of Atherstone. Area 2,150 acres. Pop. 212.

**MEREVILLE**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Oise, and arrond. of Etampes. The cant. comprises 20 com. Pop. in 1831, 9,263; in 1841, 9,206.—The town is 12 m. S of Etampes, and 45 m. S of Paris, finely situated on the Juine. It has a handsome hall, and fine castle named Folie-Mereville, the gardens of which equal in extent and magnificence the finest in France. Amongst their adornments may be mentioned a column equal in dimensions to that of the Place-Vendôme in Paris. It has manufactories of lace, leather, tiles and bricks, quarries of free-stone, and numerous flour-mills; and carries on an active trade in horses and cattle. Sheep and bees are extensively reared in the locality.

**MEREWORTH**, a parish of Kent, 6 m. W by S of Maidstone. Area 2,374 acres. Pop. in 1851, 912.

**MERG (EL)**, a village of Lower Egypt, in the prov. of Ghizeh, on a small lake, 12 m. NE of Cairo. Pop. 800. The battle of Heliopolis, between the French and Turks, on the 25th March 1800, took place in this vicinity.

**MERGENTHEIM**, **MERGENTHAL**, or **MARIENTHAL**, a town of Wurtemberg, capital of the oberamt of the same name, in the circle of the Jaxt, 45 m. NNW of Ellwangen, and 60 m. NNE of Stuttgart, on the r. bank of the Tauber, at an alt. of 664 ft. above sea-level. Pop. 2,381. It is surrounded by ramparts, planted with trees and forming promenades.

The streets are broad and well-kept, and the houses well-built. It contains a royal castle, a chapel, a gymnasium, a library, and mineral baths; and since 1527 has been the residence of the Grand Masters of the Teutonic order, who here have a fine palace. It has manufactories of clocks and of hosiery.

MERGEY, a village of France, in the dep. of the Aube, cant. and 8 m. NW of Troyes, on the r. bank of the Seine. Pop. 515. It has a spinning-mill.

MERGHEN, a town of Mandshuria, in the prov. of He-lung-keang, 150 m. NNE of Tsitsikar, on the l. bank of the Nun.

MERGHENEV, a fort of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Orenburg, district and 90 m. S of Uralsk, on the r. bank of the Ural.

MERGOZZO, a village of Piedmont, 4 m. NE of Gravellone, near the W shore of Lago-Maggiore.—In the vicinity is a small pellucid lake of the same name, 2 m. in length, and 1 m. broad, enclosed by mountains.

MERGU, a range of mountains in Hindostan, in the S chain of the Himalaya mountains, and E part of Nepal, in about 27° 40' N lat.

MERGUI, a sea-port of Tenasserim, in N lat. 12° 20', E long. 98° 30', 100 m. S of Tavoy. It formerly belonged to the Siamese, but was taken from them by the Burmese in 1759, and from the latter by the English in 1824, when it contained 1,500 houses and 8,000 inhabitants. It is favourably situated for commerce, about 6 m. up the Tenasserim river, on an island formed by two branches of the river. Middling sized vessels may go up to the town, and anchor in 5 faths, at the distance of about a  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town. The lower part of the town is washed daily by the tide, which here rises to the height of 18 ft. The site embraces a high hill, surmounted, as usual, with conspicuous pagodas. Next to the sea it rises abruptly; and the houses of the English, which are erected on its summit, have a magnificent view of the lower town, the harbour, and the ocean. The rear of the hill slopes gradually, and is thickly built with native houses, on regular streets sheltered from the sun by fine fruit and other trees, almost as close as in a forest. Among these the cocoa-nut, jack, and papaya are the most frequent. There is to be procured here sapan-wood, red wood, lance-wood, satin-wood, tin ore, and tortoise shell. The island is about 20 m. in length, and is diversified by several ranges of forest-clad hills. The low grounds are covered with thick jungle. To the N and E the country is in some places flat and marshy, but more generally presents an undulating surface of grassy plains interspersed with clumps of trees. To the S the surface is low, and interspersed with creeks. The climate is excellent.

MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO, a chain of high, bold, and generally rocky islands, extending, in a triple line, 135 m. from N to S along the coast of Tenasserim, and the isthmus of the Malay peninsula, with a strait between them and the mainland from 15 m. to 30 m. broad, having good anchorage and regular soundings all the way, with wide, deep, and smooth channels between them. The islands that lie opposite to the town of Mergui have much level land, and contain a few patches of cultivation; but the clusters lying NE of Forrest's straits, are either bleak barren rocks, or steep rocky islets covered with trees. Small trickling rills of pure water are to be found in most of them, while their shores abound with a variety of fish and excellent oysters. There is a spacious harbour, capable of containing a large fleet, situated to the N of St. Matthew's isle, formed by that island, and the adjacent islets named Phipps, Russell, Hastings, and Barwell. During the last war many valuable captures were made by

French cruisers, which refitted at Mergui and among the Mergui islands.—A race of men termed by the Chinese Cholomé and Pase, by others Seelongs, are to be found scattered throughout the M. islands, but their dread of the Malay pirates keeps them in constant locomotion to escape slavery. The late Dr. Helfer is the only traveller who has given any account of that race. He says that on his first arrival on one of the islands "a general terror spread over the community, they not knowing whether friend or foe was approaching. Suspecting an incursion of Malays, the women and the children had fled into the interior, and their best property—sea-slugs and rice—had been buried in all hurry in the jungle. Finding that a white man was come amongst them, the whole community came in the morning to welcome me. There were about 70 men, women, and children altogether. They had encamped on the sandy sea-beach. Each family had erected a little raised shed, covered with palm-leaves, where all the members huddled together in the night. There they sat,—a dirty, miserable-looking congregation, the women occupied in making mats of a peculiar description, from sea-weed, which are sold in Mergui and Moulmien, and much sought after. Some of their sheds appeared like butchers' stalls; large pieces of turtle cut in pieces, and rendering the atmosphere pestilential, were everywhere drying in the sun, shell-fish were seen extracted from their shells; and wild roots of a species of *hioscorea*, as well as the fetid shoots of *eycus circinalis*, were prepared for cooking. On the beach lay about 20 or 30 boats, well-built, and light like nutshells swimming on the surface; the bottom, built of a solid trunk; the sides constructed of the slender trunks of palms strongly united and calked with palm hemp. These boats, not longer than 20 ft., are the true houses of the Seelongs. To it the Seelong intrusts his life and little property; in it he wanders during his lifetime from island to island; a true ichthiophage, to whom the earth has no charm, and whom he neglects so much that he does not even intrust to her care a single grain of rice. But even as fishermen these people are to be considered yet in their infancy; they have no nets; the trident is their only weapon, with which they spear sharks and other fish, as well as turtle; all the rest is done with the *dah*, or with the hand, they know no other instrument. In their exterior they are well-built, apparently healthy, darker than the Burmese: part of them approach the Malay type, part of them the Ethiopian; the curly hair of some of them especially speaks in favour of Negro origin. I spent the day in conversation with them, through the medium of their head-man, who understood Burmese. Some spoke, besides their own idiom, Siamese, some Malay. They behaved with remarkable civility and decorum. Intoxication is the greatest enjoyment they know. The Chinese and Malays provide them with toddy in the first instance, and during the subsequent state of stupor rob them of every valuable they possess."

MERIBUHY, a town of S. Africa, the cap. of the Tamahas, about 72 m. NE of Lattaku. Pop. 900.

MERIDA, a town of Spain, in the prov. and 30 m. E of Badajoz, situated on a gently rising ground on the r. bank of the Guadiana, across which there is here a bridge of 81 arches 2,575 ft. long, and at the confluence of the Albarregas, over which is a bridge of 5 arches. Its houses are ancient, and it has one or two fine public buildings. Its pop. is about 5,000. In the time of the Romans, this place was called *Emerita Augusta*, having been founded in 23 B.C., and peopled with soldiers of the 5th and 10th legions, in the reign of Augustus. It fell gradually to decay in the war between the Goths and Moors, and now presents but a feeble picture of its former

prosperity. But its antiquities render it an object of great interest,—“the Rome of Spain!” in the walls, houses, churches, and even in the pavement of the streets, are discovered the remains of columns, bases, capitals, frieses, statues, and inscriptions; and vestiges of temples, aqueducts, bridges, baths, and other monuments constructed by the Romans, are to be seen partly within the town, and partly in the environs. Under the Goths, M. was the see of an archbishop; and here a great church-council was held in 666. It was besieged and taken by the Moors in 713, and was for some time the cap. of a small Moorish kingdom. It was retaken by Alphonso IX. in 1230. It was taken by the French in January 1811, and retaken by General Hill in January 1812.

**MERIDA.** See **YUCATAN.**

**MERIDA**, the capital of Yucatan, situated in about 21° N lat., W long. 89° 40', 10 leagues from the sea, in an arid plain, and at an elevation of about 25 ft. above sea-level, 70 m. NE of Campeachy. Its present pop. is estimated at 20,000, the majority of whom are Indians and half-breeds. Its streets are of a good width, and laid out at right angles with side paths 4 ft. wide paved with rough stone. The houses are built of stone, with flat roofs, and of a uniform appearance. In the centre of the city is a large square skirted by the bishop's palace, the government-house, and dwellings occupied by the richer class of citizens. The cathedral is a handsome structure of the 16th cent., with well-proportioned domes, pinnacles, and turrets. The bishop's palace adjoining it is a poor building of two stories. There are 14 churches within the city and its suburbs. The congress occupies apartments in a convent once belonging to the Jesuits, most of which is in a ruinous condition. The ruins of the monastery of San Francisco, situated nearly in the centre of the city, occupy about 5 acres of ground, and are enclosed by walls 40 ft. high, and 8 ft. thick. This vast pile, which once contained upwards of 2,000 friars, is now tenanted only by buzzards. The Minerva or college has a president and two or three professors, but its studies are of a very limited description. There is an excellent road from M. to the port of Sisal on the NW side of the peninsula.

**MERIDA**, a town of Venezuela, in the dep. of Zulia, on the river Chama, 330 m. SW of Caracas. It had a pop. of 12,000 previous to its devastation by an earthquake in 1812; and it is supposed has nearly regained its former prosperity.

**MERIDEN**, a parish and village in the co. of Warwick, 5½ m. NW of Coventry. Area 3,010 acres. Pop. in 1801, 821; in 1831, 892; in 1851, 965.

**MERIDEN**, a township of New Haven co., in the state of Connecticut, U. S., 16 m. S by W of Hartford. It has a hilly surface, watered by Quinnipiac river, and is generally fertile. It is intersected by the Hartford and New Haven railroad. Pop. in 1840, 1,880. It has a village containing about 40 dwellings.

**MERIDIAN SPRINGS**, a village of Hinds co., in the state of Mississippi, U. S., 9 m. N by W of Jackson, on one of the headstreams of Bogue Chitto creek, a branch of Big Black river.

**MERIDIANVILLE**, a village of Madison co., in the state of Alabama, U. S., 165 m. NNE of Tuscaloosa, on the N side of Flint river.

**MERIGNAC**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Charente, cant. and 5 m. NE of Jarnac, on the Guirlande, an affluent of the Charente. Pop. 1,302. It produces wine in large quantities and brandy.—Also a commune in the dep. of the Gironde, cant. and 3 m. NNW of Pessac, and 4 m. W of Bordeaux. Pop. in 1841, 3,276. It produces good wine.—Also a canal in the dep. of the Charente-

Inferieure, and cant. of Marennes, extending from St. Just to the S of Bronage, a distance of about 36 m.

**MERIGNAT**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Aisne, cant. and 2 m. SE of Poncin. Pop. 1,263.

**MERIGNY**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Indre, 8 m. S of St. Martin-de-Tournon, on the r. bank of the Langlin., Pop. 1,100.

**MERIM.** See **MIRIM.**

**MERINCHAL**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Creuse, cant. and 7 m. NE of Crocq, and 17 m. E of Aubusson, near the source of the Cher. Pop. 1,700.

**MERINDOL**, a town of France, in the dep. of the Vaucluse, cant. and 9 m. W of Cadenet, and 14 m. SW of Apt, at the foot of the Leberon, and near the r. bank of the Durance. Pop. 626. In 1545 it was demolished, and its inhabitants—sectaries of the ancient Vaudois—were nearly all put to the sword by order of Francis I.

**MERINO**, a village of Naples, in the prov. of Capitanata, and district of Foggia, on the promontory of Mount Gargano. Pop. 500.

**MERINVILLE**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Aude, cant. and 1½ m. SE of Peyriac, and 14 m. NNE of Carcassonne. Pop. 1,562. It has a distillery of brandy.

**MERION (LOWER)**, a township of Montgomery co., in the state of Pennsylvania, U. S., 93 m. E of Harrisburg, watered by Schuylkill river, and Mill and Cobb's creeks. The surface is undulating, and the soil, which is fertile, consists chiefly of loam. Pop. in 1840, 2,827.

**MERION (UPPER)**, a township of Montgomery co., in the state of Pennsylvania, U. S. It has an undulating surface, drained by Valley and Gulf creeks. Its soil consists of calcareous loam. Pop. in 1840, 2,804.

**MERIONETHSHIRE**, a maritime county of N. Wales; bounded on the N and NE by the cos. of Carnarvon and Denbigh; on the E, SE, and S, by the cos. of Montgomery and Cardigan; and on the W by the Irish sea. It is separated from Carnarvon, on the N, partly by an immense ravine through which flows the Glas-lyn river, and partly by an Alpine ridge. On the S it is separated from Cardigan by the river Dovy. It forms an irregular triangle, having its apex to the S; its extreme length being about 43 m., and its extreme breadth 35 m. It has an area of 500,000 acres, of which 50,000 are arable, and 450,000 in pasture. It is divided into the five hundreds of Arudwy, Ederion, Estimaner, Penlyn, and Talybont with Mowddu; and subdivided into 37 parishes. Its chief towns are Harlech, Bala, Barmouth, Dolgelly, and Towyn. Pop. in 1801, 27,506; in 1831, 35,609, consisting of 7,358 families, of whom 3,588 were chiefly employed in agriculture, 1,815 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, and 1,960 otherwise occupied; in 1841, 39,332; in 1851, 38,843.

*Physical features.* Contrasted with the scenery of a highly cultivated country the general aspect of M. is bleak and dreary; but examined with a painter's or a poet's eye, it presents many charms. The scenery of its glens is singularly picturesque, and the falls of its numerous rivers are proverbial in the enumeration of select Cambrian scenes. The mountain-scenery is somewhat less dreary than that of Carnarvon, being better clothed with wood, but not less romantic. Many of the mountains, as Arenig, Moelwyn, Rhinog, &c., exceed 2,000 ft. in height, while the lofty Cader-Idris reaches 2,914 ft.; and Arran-Mowddu or Mowdwy is elevated 2,955 ft. above sea-level. The whole co. forms a portion of that Alpine district which, beginning in Carnarvonshire and traversing S. Wales, dips under the coal-strata on the borders of the Bristol channel.—The



river Dee, the ancient *Deva*, has its source here in two small rivulets rising from springs on the side of Mount Arran-ben-lllyn, whence, after wandering NE through the vale of Edernion, and forming the lake of Bala, the largest lake in N. Wales, it passes, by Corwen, into Denbighshire, not far from Llangollen. The Troweryn and the Alwen are the principal tributaries forming an accession to it in its course within this co. The Maw or Mawddac rises about the centre of the co., and runs S to its junction with the Llynandnon, a river of about the same size. The conjoined waters preserve the name of the Maw, and flow SW to their junction with the Wnion, or Avon, on receiving the waters of which river, the Maw becomes navigable and tidal, and ultimately expands into a shallow estuary, terminating at Barmouth. The Dovy or Dyfi rises near Bala, and flowing SW by Machynlleth, above which it becomes navigable, falls into the Irish sea at Aberdovy. The Disynwy rises near Cadir-Idris, and flows SW to the Irish sea, between the Maw and the Dovy.—There are upwards of 50 lakes or pools within the co., generally occupying the cwms or hollows of the mountains; but most of them are small. The largest are Llyn-Tegidd, or Bala lake, and Llyn-Tallylyn, at the foot of Cadir-Idris. In these lakes are taken char, white and red trout, eels, perch, roach, gwyniad, &c. Pike are caught in Bala lake.

*Roads.* The principal road in this co. is that from London, by Shrewsbury, to Corwen, Bala, Dolgellu, and Barmouth, with branches to Bangor, Aberconwy, and Oswestry. The highway returns, for 1832, give an expenditure of £648 on 420 m. of road. One of the projected railways to facilitate intercourse between London and Ireland, was intended to pass through this co. from the Grand junction railway, and by Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, and Dolgellu, to Portdynllaen.

*Soil, produce, &c.* Greywacke, flinty slate, and roofing slate, intersected by veins of quartz, containing copper pyrites, constitute the principal features of the geological structure of the mountainous district of this co. The vales contain schistose clay, and sometimes peat, constituting bogs and turbaries. Limestone is quarried in abundance along the valley of the Dee. Copper and lead are wrought near Barmouth and Towyn. The great staple of the county, however, is slate.—The valleys afford some fertile fields, and the vicinity of the sea is productive where sheltered; but the greater part of the co. is sterile and irreclaimable. A tolerably extensive trade is carried on in timber: the vicinities of Dolgelly, Machynlleth, Corwen, and the vale of Edernion, besides many of the glens in the recesses of the mountains, presenting extensive and well-managed woods. Flocks of sheep and herds of small black cattle are pastured on the hills. The genuine Welsh pony is to be found here in all its primitive symmetry, although the breed is nearly extinct in other parts of the principality.—The shipping interest of the co. is considerable: the principal ports to which it belongs are the quay of Traethbach-Barmouth and Aberdyfi.—The woollen manufacture merits notice. Coarse clothes, flannels, kerseymeres, druggets, and stockings are made in various places, particularly at Bala, Dolgelly, and Maltwydd.

*Ecclesiastical affairs, &c.* The western and greater part of this county forms the deanery of Arduwy, in the archd. of Merioneth, in the old dio. of Bangor, while the remainder forms the deanery of Pentlyn, and Idernion, in the archd. of St. Asaph, in the old dio. of St. Asaph.—The poor rate returns for three years to Easter 1750, show an average expenditure of £15,385 on the poor of this county; for 1803, an expenditure of £15,192; for 1833, of £18,040; for

1838, an expenditure of £13,200; and for 1847, of £15,314, being at rate per pound on the annual value of property rated to the poor's rates in that year of 2s. 6½d., the average for all Wales being 1s. 11½d.—The county returns one member to parliament, who is polled for at Harlech, Bala, Dolgellu, Corwen, and Towyn, the principal place of election being Harlech. The number of electors registered for the co., in 1837, was 1,336; in 1846, 1,180. There are no parliamentary boroughs. The co. is in the N. Wales circuit.

**MERISCHWANDEN**, a circle and village of Switzerland, in the canton of Argau, district and 3 m. SE of Muri, and 21 m. SE of Aarau, on the l. bank of the Reuss. Pop. 1,260. Agriculture forms the chief industry of its inhabitants.

**MERISHAUSEN**, a town of Switzerland, in the cant. and 5 m. N of Schaffhausen, at the foot of the Randenberg. Pop. 730.

**MÉRIVEAUX**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Brabant, dep. of Court-Saint-Etienne. Pop. 149.

**MARKAVA**, a sanjak of Turkey in Asia, in the pash. of Shehrézour.

**MERKENDORF**, a walled town of Bavaria, in the circle of Middle Franconia, ldbz and 11 m. SSW of Heilsbrunn, and 9 m. SE of Anspach. Pop. 806. Madder is cultivated in the vicinity.

**MERKEZ**, a village and fortress of Turkey in Asia, in Syria, in the pash. and 90 m. NW of Aleppo, on the gulf and 9 m. N of Scanderun, on a river—the ancient *Kersus*—bearing the same name. The fortress commands the defile of Sakkal-Doutan.

**MERKLIN**, a market town of Bohemia, in the circle and 14 m. N of Klattau, on a river of the same name. Pop. 940.

**MERKLINGEN**, a market town of Würtemberg, in the circle of the Neckar, obmt and 8 m. WSW of Leonberg, and 16 m. W of Stuttgart, on the Wurm. Pop. 1,297.—Also a village in the circle of the Danube, obmt and 8 m. N of Blanbeuren, and 12 m. NW of Ulm. Pop. 600. It has manufactories of linen.

**MERKOPALY**, **MERKOPOLÉ**, or **MERKOPAIL**, a market town of Austria, in Croatia, in the comitat and 72 m. WSW of Agram.

**MERKUSHUNA-NOS**, a headland of Russia in Asia, in the gov. of Yakutsk, on the N side of Amouliakskaya bay, in N lat. 72° 30'.

**MERLANGE**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Marne, cant. and com. of Montereau, 14 m. E of Fontainebleau. Pop. 300.

**MERLEAC**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Côtes-du-Nord, cant. and 3 m. W of Uzel and 11 m. NW of Loudéac. Pop. 2,826.

**MERLEBEKE**, a village of Belgium, in the prov. of East Flanders, dep. and 5 m. NW of Oosterzele, and 5 m. S of Ghent, on the r. bank of the Schelde.

**MERLEMONT**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Namur and arrond. of Denant. Pop. of dep. 183; of com. 179.

**MERLENHEIM**, a village of Bavaria, in the circle of the Pfalz, district and 3 m. E of Landau.

**MERLERA**, the most northerly of the Ionian islands, 6 m. NW of Corfu and 8 m. ENE of Fano, in N lat. 39° 52' 35", and E long. 19° 36' 30". It is about a mile in length and is very fertile.—Also a headland of Austria, on the S coast of Illyria, gov. of Trieste and circle of Istria, in N lat. 44° 48', and E long. 13° 58' 50".

**MERLEAULT (Le)**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Orne and arrond. of Argentan. The cant. comprises 14 com. Pop. in 1831, 8,055; in 1841, 7,742. The town is 17 m. E of Argentan and 23 m. NNE of Alençon, on an affluent of the Don. It has manufactories of cotton

fabrics, hosiery and wooden ware, and several limekilns, and carries on a considerable trade in cattle and horses. In the environs is a mine of iron.

**MERLEVENEZ**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Morbihan, and cant. of Port Louis, 6 m. E of Lorient. Pop. 1,087.

**MERLIGEN**, a village of Switzerland, in the cant. of Berne, on lake Thun. Pop. 460. The cultivation of the vine and navigation form the chief employments of the inhabitants.

**MERLIN**, a commune of France, in the prov. of Hainault, dep. of Jollain Merlin. Pop. 225.

**MERLO**, a river of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Kharkov, which has its source in the district of Bogodonkhov; runs SW past the town of that name; enters the gov. of Poltava; and after a course of about 78 m. joins the Vorskla on the l. bank, 15 m. above Poltava.

**MERLOU**. See **MELLO**.

**MERMAID STRAIT**, a channel of Dampier's archipelago, off the NW coast of Australia, in N lat. 20° 38', and E long. 116° 30', between Gidly and Melus islands.

**MERMENTAU**, or **MENTOU**, a river of SW Louisiana, which has its rise in the high meadow land of the district of Opelousas, by the junction of the Bayou Plaquemine, and the Nepique; and after a southerly course of 200 m. falls into the gulf of Mexico, in 93° W long., about 200 m. W of the Mississippi. In the lower part of its course, it opens into a spacious lake; and before its exit into the sea it again assumes the form and breadth of a river. It has a bar at its mouth with only 3 ft. of water upon it.

**MERNAY**, a village of France, in the dep. of La Vienne, 5 m. SE of Vivonne. Pop. 1,000.

**MEROD**, or **AMARAVATI**, a town of Hindostan, in the prov. of Aurungabad, 52 m. ESE of Punah, on the r. bank of the Korra.

**MEROE**, or **MERAWÉ**, a peninsular district on the S of Nubia, bounded by the Tacazze on the E and NE; by the Bahr-el-Azrek and the Rahad on the SW; and by the Nile on the W. It is the country of the Sheygya Arabs, who are divided into four tribes, and speak the Arabian language, and whose principal villages are Terrif, Wallad-Grait, Dabazait, and Merawe. The territory of M. is described as peculiarly luxuriant and well-irrigated. Mr. Holroyd says: "The modern Meroe, or Merawe, situated a little to the SW of Jebel-Berkel, in 18° 31' N lat., is a ruined, deserted town, brought to its present dilapidated condition by oppression and bad government. Within a very short period of my visit to it no less than 27 water-wheels had been deserted, their owners having absconded to Berber and other places. The bazaar, which was formerly renowned for its size and supplies, is now ill-attended; the merchants are poor, and their wares scanty. Soap and sugar, which I had almost universally found in the bazaars in the Belled of Sudan, do not occupy a place in that of M. There is some land in the neighbourhood of M. uncultivated, and this does not appear to have been used since Mahomet Ali subdued the Sheggeans. A large quantity of indigo is grown, and there is a manufactory for it. There are 1,177 water-wheels under the kaschif of M.; of this number 1,000 pay the tax of 302 piastres each to the government; the remainder, belonging to the sheikhs, are taxed only 2 piastres each per ann., and they are permitted to possess as many as they please. The quantity of grain collected in the pasha's magazines at M. is sometimes enormous. About five years ago they contained at one time 16,000 ardebs. The prices at the government-magazine are as follows: wheat 25 piastres the ardeb; barley, 17 piastres;

dhourra, 17 piastres; all of the very finest quality. When the government requires butter for the military rations, it levies this tax upon the water-wheels; and during my stay at M. each wheel was compelled to furnish 3 rottoli. The kaschif also received orders from the governor of Dongola to furnish 150 water-skins. A soldier was sent round to each sheikh to request him to procure a certain number, according to the size and number of the village or villages under his command, 6 from one sheikh, 8 from a second, and so on. The government pays the fellah 3 piastres for each skin, though the value of it, together with arranging and preparing or tanning, costs the owner 6 and sometimes 7 piastres. The cattle required by the government from the villages on the Nile is levied likewise upon the water-wheels. When a butcher slaughters cattle or sheep at M., he looks to his profit from the grease which the animal produces rather than to the meat. And whilst the price of meat is 20 paras the rottolo, the grease meets with a more ready sale at one piastre, so much is it in request for plastering the head and anointing the bodies of the inhabitants. The character of the people of the Sheggea is much altered since the visits of Burckhardt, Waddington, and Hanbury. I found them, in 1837, reduced to poverty and the greatest state of degradation by Turkish misrule and Mahomedan despotism. They are no longer an independent people. Their grain does not incommode their granaries, but, as soon as thrashed, is conveyed to the magazines of the government, and their cattle are seized for the pasha. Their reputed wealth is nominal; their possessions limited. They are hospitable by compulsion or from motives of gain, and in some instances from fear. Very few schools exist among them. Those who can read and write are called *fickees* or saints. The learning of their most learned men rarely extends beyond a superficial knowledge of the Koran. They are all Mahomedans, and abstain from the use of vinous and spirituous liquors. Their women are dissolute, and prostitution is common in all the large villages. The merchants have dwindled into mere pedlars, who carry their wares from one bazaar to another through the province. Coats-of-mail are no longer seen amongst them, and they have given up carrying weapons of defence. The most interesting object this country offers to the eye of the traveller, is a range of most magnificent monuments at M., the remains of seven temples, of which the largest is 450 ft. long, by 159 ft. broad. Here are also 17 pyramids; while 7 miles higher up the river, at a place called El-Bellal, there is a more numerous and lofty range; but a general character of ruins pervades the whole, and some are masses of mere rubbish. Mr. Hoskins says of the Ethiopic sculpture on the monuments of the Upper Nile: "It is all executed in basco relievio, with the exception of the hieroglyphics, which are in intaglio. The style is certainly by no means equal to the best at Thebes. It is unlike the style of the age of Osirseten, the Thothmes, Rameses II. (Augustan age), Rameses III. (first decline), the florid style during the reign of Psammeticus, or the clumsy inelegant productions of the Persian, Ptolemaic, or Roman dynasties. There is no resemblance to any of these styles, or appearance of its being a corruption from them. The ornaments, on the fragments which still exist, are all evidently peculiar to the country. Of the few that still remain, many are not found in Egypt, and appear to represent the rites of a religion much more simple and pure than the corrupted Egyptian mythology. They bear the stamp of originality, and I should say, therefore, that the Ethiopian style is antecedent to the others; that it is the earliest, though not the best." The pyramids

of M., Mr. H. says, "are of sandstone, the quarries of which are in the range of hills to the east. The stone is rather softer than the Egyptian, which, added to the great antiquity, may account for the very dilapidated state of most of these ruins; and also for their sculpture and hieroglyphics being so defaced. Time, and the burning rays of a tropical sun, have given them a brownish red tint, in some parts nearly black. As the operation of many ages is required to make this change on a light-coloured sandstone, a further proof is afforded of the great antiquity of the monuments. The stones being small, and easily removed, it is fortunate that the chief group of pyramids is so far distant from the Nile; otherwise, like those on the plain near the river, a great proportion of them might have been carried away as materials for the erection of more modern edifices." Mr. H. has been the first to discover, that to Ethiopia we are indebted for the invention of the arch. "One of the porches or porticoes in the pyramids of M. is most interestingly curious," he says, "the roof being arched, in a regular masonic style, with what may be called a keystone. This arch consists of four and five stones alternately; but, notwithstanding this irregularity, the principle is the same, the stones being held together only by lateral pressure." In the name and localities of M., there seems to be some trace of the ancient *Meroe* described by early geographers as more ancient and more mighty than the Egyptian Thebes. Mr. Ellis thinks it highly probable that Strabo designates the position N of Shendy as *Meroe*, from the circumstance of its being the capital city at the time in which he wrote; and Ptolemy has fixed upon *Merawe* as that of his later time. The distances in stadia, as given by Strabo from Eratosthenes, are almost minutely correct; and the distances between *Merawe* and the stations on the Nile round the bend northwards, till we reach the junction of the Nile and Tacazza, are the same as those laid down by Ptolemy, with erroneous latitude and longitude.

**MEROT.** See **MERAT**.

**MEROUVILLE**, a village of France, in the dep. of Eure-et-Loir, cant. and 7 m. from Janville. Pop. 450.

**MERRIMACK**, a river of New Hampshire, U. S., formed by the union of several streams from the White mountains. Its most northern branch, the Pemigewasset, rises in Moosehillock, and after a southerly course of about 70 m. is joined by the Winnipisogee at Sanbornton, and then takes the name of M. The course of the confluent stream continues S by E about 80 m. to the Massachusetts line. It then turns to the E, and after a course of 50 m., falls into the Atlantic, below Newbury-port. It is navigable for vessels of 200 tons to Haverhill. By means of this river and the Middlesex canal, an extensive boat-navigation is opened between Boston and the state of New Hampshire, around the falls, and as far as Concord. The principal falls on the Merrimack, around which canals are constructed, are Isle-of-Hookset, Amoskeag, and Pawtucket.—Also a central county of New Hampshire drained by the M. river and its branches. Area 816 sq. m. Pop. in 1840, 36,253; in 1850, 40,346. Its cap. is Concord.—Also a township of Hillsborough co., New Hampshire, on the W side of the M., 29 m. S of Concord. Pop. 1,114.—Also townships in St. Louis co., Jefferson co., Franklin co., and Crawford co., all in the state of Missouri.

**MERRIMAN**, a township of Crawford co., in the state of Missouri, U. S. Pop. in 1840, 1,111.

**MERRINGTON**, a parish in the co. of Durham, 4 m. ENE of Bishop's Auckland. Area 8,024 acres. Pop. 2,673.

**MERRION**, a village in the p. of Donnybrook, co. and 3 m. SE of Dublin, on the S side of the bay

of that name, near the transit of the Dublin and Kingston railway. Area 197 acres. Pop. in 1851, 725.

**MERRIOT**, a parish of Somersetshire, 2 m. N of Crewkerne. Area 1,693 acres. Pop. 1,439.

**MERRITCH**, a town and fortress of Hindostan, in the prov. of Bejapore, on the banks of the Krishna, 72 m. SE of Sattara. Before the Mahomedan invasion of this part of India, M. was the cap. of a Hindu dynasty. In modern times it was the residence of a Mahratta chief. It is a place of considerable strength and importance.

**MERRITTSTOWN**, a village of Luzerne township, Fayette co., in the state of Pennsylvania, U. S., 191 m. W by S of Harrisburg, on Dunlap's creek. It consisted in 1840 of about 40 dwellings.

**MERRIWETHER**, a county in the W part of the state of Georgia, U. S., comprising an area of 400 sq. m., bordered on the E by Flint river, and drained by branches of Flint and Chattahoochee rivers. Pop. in 1840, 14,132, of whom 5,391 were slaves; in 1850, 16,496. Its cap. is Greenville.

**MERROW**, a parish of Surrey, 2 m. ENE of Guildford. Area 1,608 acres. Pop. in 1851, 278.

**MERRY**, an island in the NW part of Hudson's bay, to the S of Jones' island, and 54 m. from the shore of the continent.

**MERRYMEETING BAY**, an arm of the Atlantic, in the state of Maine, U. S., formed by the confluence of the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers.

**MERRYIN** (SAINT), a parish of Cornwall, 6½ m. WNW of Wadebridge. Area 3,928 acres. Pop. in 1831, 576; in 1851, 591.

**MERS**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Indre, cant. and 6 m. NE of Neuzy-St.-Sepulcre, near the l. bank and at the confluence of the Vanvre and Indre. Pop. 500. See also **MIDI (CANAL DU)**.

**MERSCH**, a market-town of Belgium, in the prov. and 9 m. N of Luxemburg at the confluence of the Mamer and Alzette. Pop. 2,400. It has several distilleries and oil-mills, and large saw-mills.—Also a village of Prussia, in the prov. of the Rhine, regency and 19 m. NE of Aachen. Pop. 1,700.

**MERSE**, or **MARCH (THE)**, an extensive campaign and fertile district, occupying the eastern part of the Scottish border. In modern political distribution of territory, it is the largest and most southerly of the three districts of Berwickshire. In popular phraseology, it is the whole of Berwickshire, and strictly identical with the co.; and in topographical nomenclature, based on strict reference to uniqueness of geographical feature, it is the whole low country lying immediately N of the Tweed; semi-circularly screened by the Lammermoor-hills and the heights of Teviotdale, and including all the political Merse of Berwickshire, and all the district of Roxburghshire which lies on the l. bank of the Tweed. Ancient political usage not only sanctioned the last of these senses, but carried the Merse into the lowlands of Teviotdale, and viewed Roxburgh-castle situated on the r. bank of the Tweed, as the cap. of the whole district. See article **BERWICKSHIRE**.

**MERSEA**, an island of Essex, at the confluence of the rivers Colne and Blackwater, and separated from the mainland by the creek or channel of Pyefleet. It is about 5 m. in length, and 2 m. in greatest breadth. The connexion between it and the mainland is maintained by a long causeway composed of shingles, enclosed on each side by rows of stakes driven vertically into the earth, and set close to each other, the tops of which being sawed off at the same elevation above the ground, form a raised wooden footpath above the level of the carriage-road, called the *strood*, which is covered by the sea every tide. The island is well wooded, and diversi-



fied with hill and dale. Numerous Roman antiquities have been discovered here. There was formerly a block-house, or small fortification, on the SE corner of the island, to defend the passage of the river Colne. It is ecclesiastically divided into two parishes: viz. East M. having an area of 3,857 acres, with a pop. in 1831 of 300, and in 1851 of 291; and West M. with an area of 4,415 acres, and a pop. in 1831 of 847, in 1851 of 870.

MERSEBURG, one of the regencies of the Prussian states, containing that part of Prussian Saxony which lies to the S of Anhalt, and to the E of the gov. of Erfurt. Area 188.76 German sq. m. Pop. in 1837, 643,779; in 1849, 742,644. It consists almost entirely of cessions made by Saxony in 1815, and comprises the chief part of the old electoral circle of Saxony, a small part of Thuringia, the bishoprics and chapter-lands of Merseburg, Naumburg and Zeitz, part of the duchy of Magdeburg, part of the districts of Leipzig and Meissin, and the cos. of Mansfeld and Stolberg. It is subdivided into 17 districts, or, as they are officially termed, circles; and comprises 64 towns.

MERSEBURG, the cap. of the preceding government, stands on the l. bank of the Saale, 15 m. W of Leipzig, and 56 m. SSE of Magdeburg. Pop. in 1846, 10,500. It is an old-fashioned place, with narrow and crooked streets, but is clean and well-paved. Its most remarkable buildings are the cathedral, the gymnasium which has 7 professors, and the palaces of the bishops and dukes. Brewing is largely carried on here, and there are manufactories of woollens, linens, paper, and tobacco. The Eisenach and Halle railway has a station here.

MERS-EL-KEBIR. See MARSALQUITVIR.

MERSEY, a river of England which rises in a number of small streams, descending from the Pennine chain, near the point of junction of the three cos. of Derby, Cheshire, and York; but chiefly in Clough moss and Holme moss to the SW of Huddersfield. The Etherow, and its confluent the Goyt, are joined at Stockport by the Thame; and the united stream, under the name of the Mersey, becomes navigable at the mouth of the Irwell, which is its principal tributary. Between this point and Warrington the navigation has been improved and shortened by artificial cuts, the rise of the tide at Warrington being obstructed in the natural channel by a weir. The navigable portion of the M. from Liverpool upwards, is 35 m. in length; and the Irwell was deepened pursuant to an act passed in 1720, so that vessels of 60 to 70 tons burthen could pass up to Manchester. But a most gigantic work was undertaken, in 1840, for the improvement of this line of navigation,—namely, the rendering of the Irwell navigable for vessels of 300 tons burthen up to Manchester; the distance between Warrington and Manchester being, moreover, shortened 5 m. by cuttings in those parts where the river takes the winding course for which this navigation is remarkable. At Runcorn the river opens into a wide estuary with a contracted mouth, and crossed by dangerous sand-banks. In this estuary the sand-banks, tossed to and fro by the force of the winds and tides, are constantly changing their shapes and elevations; and, having no escape, remain pent up in the bay. In 1687, an excellent channel existed opposite to Formby point; but, not being marked by buoys, the Rock-channel, though dry at low water, was at that time the entrance in common use. A diagonal channel has recently been formed, by aiding the ebb-current of the tide in its natural diagonal course between Lancashire and Cheshire, by dredging, by means of a double-toothed harrow 12 ft. across, dragged backwards and forwards by a steamer of 100 horse-power

over the intruding banks, the inner part of which was stated to rise 43 ft. higher than the outer or seaward part. An enormous wooden scraper has also been used. The matter taken up in these operations appears to contain a small portion of peat, and weighs somewhat lighter than the sand found within the estuary. It can scarcely be doubted that at some remote period the estuary of the M. did not exist at all, or at most in a very limited form: a forest and morass may have occupied the land between Formby point and Helbré. Numerous trunks and roots of large forest-trees are, to this day, found along the Cheshire and Lancashire shores, while extensive tracts of peat are observed in many places starting up among the sands. In 1828, a number of human skeletons were disinterred opposite the Leasowe lighthouse, affording strong evidence that a burying-ground had formerly existed there; and a similar cemetery is discernible at Formby. This lighthouse has been erected in place of another which was nearer to the sea by half-a-mile. The highly important port of Liverpool has been ever in great danger of having its navigation seriously injured by the accumulation of silt forming shifting sand-banks at the mouth of the M.; and Captain Denham infers, from his observations for 14 years, that a time will arrive when no access to it can exist, unless man set bounds by his ingenuity to the operation of tidal action. He ascertained that the proportion of insoluble matter contained in the M. amounts to 29 cub. ins. in the flood, and 33 ins. in the ebb, in each cub. yd. of water; evincing a preponderance of 1 in 8 in the matter of the ebb, or 48.065 cub. yds. of silt, &c., which is detained by the banks outside the Rock-Narrows each tide, with the exception of what the succeeding ebb disturbs, at the exhausted stage of the former ebb. Thus, the ebb of to-day ranges over 64 sq. m., and the next ebb over 44 sq. m., reducing, by one-third, the first day's layer,—that being the relative proportion of silt held in solution, and deposited over the outer area, at the N margin of which the cross-set of the Irish channel ebbs, and limits the deposit by sweeping into broad water what may extend so far. Now, the excess of silt on the 730 refluxes of tide that occur in a year, amounts to 35,087,450 cub. yds., capable of spreading a layer, if equally disseminated, of 21 inches thick over the first tide area: one-third, however, is disturbed, and carried over the second tide area; or there is an uniform increase of the banks, and decrease of water in the channels of the estuary of the M., amounting to 7 inches per annum. This deposition of matter is however very unequal, some parts of the coast and banks receiving great accumulation, while others are often taken away. At the quarantine ground the bed of the river shoaled up 22 ft. in 8 years, and then 11 ft. in 2 years, over a space of half-a-mile long by one-quarter of a mile wide, and yet this was swept away in 18 months. The principal of the numerous and extensive sand-banks which stretch to the N and E of the Mersey and the Dee, and render the entrances to Liverpool difficult and intricate, are the Hoyle and the Burbo sands and flats on the S, and the Jordan flats and Formby bank on the N. The principal passages to Liverpool are the Horse, or middle channel, running into the Rock channel between the N. Burbo banks and N. Spit on the W; and E. Hoyle bank and Mockbeggar wharf on the coast between the Mersey and the Dee on the E; Victoria channel between the N. Burbo banks on the SE, and the Jordan flats on the NW; and the old Formby channel between Jordan bank on the S, and Mad wharf on the N. The channels are all well-buoyed, and there are various lighthouses stationed on the shores, and floating-light vessels in the offing

and channels. Formby lighthouse, erected in 1834 on Formby-point, in N lat.  $53^{\circ} 32' 21''$ , and W long.  $3^{\circ} 3' 54''$ , was seen at a distance of 12 m. in clear weather, but the light has been discontinued. The Rock lighthouse is situated to the eastward of the Crosby floating light, on the shore, at the S side of the entrance to the narrow gut of the Mersey. It exhibits a black ball above its balcony, whilst 12 ft. of water remain in the Rock Gut by day, and a steady light from a lower chamber in the W aspect indicates the same by night. Leasowe lighthouse is situated on the shore between the Mersey and the Dee, in N lat.  $53^{\circ} 24' 49''$  N, and W long.  $3^{\circ} 7' 27''$ . The light is fixed, and is seen at a distance of 16 m. in clear weather. Bidston lighthouse, on Bidston-hill, NE from Leasowe lighthouse, is in N lat.  $53^{\circ} 24'$ , and W long.  $3^{\circ} 4'$ . The lantern is 300 ft. in height above high water, and the light is seen at a distance of 20 m. in clear weather. The Liverpool light vessel is moored in 7 fath. at the entrance to the Horse and Helbre channels, in N lat.  $53^{\circ} 28'$ , and W long.  $3^{\circ} 17'$ . It carries a flag, and has 3 fixed lights at an elevation of 36 ft. above the surface of the water, and seen at a distance of 9 m. in clear weather.

**MERSEY**, a river of Tasmania, which has its source in an open plain near the W confines of the co. of Westmoreland; flows N to the co. of Devon, which it enters at its junction with the NW corner of Westmoreland co.; thence bends E a distance of about 10 m., makes a sharp turn, and takes a N direction, which, with considerable sinuosities, it pursues to its entrance into Port Frederick. Its principal affluents are Lobster and Dashie rivers.

**MERSHAM**, a parish in Kent,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. SE of Ashford, intersected by the South-Eastern railway. Area 2,675 acres. Pop. in 1831, 677; in 1851, 776.

**MERSTHAM**, a parish in Surrey, 3 m. NE of Reigate, intersected by the London and Brighton railway, which passes through a tunnel in this parish. Area 2,535 acres. Pop. in 1831, 713; in 1851, 843. Here are quarries of a peculiar kind of stone once reckoned of so much importance that they were kept in the possession of the Crown, and employed in the erection of old Windsor castle, and Henry VII.'s chapel at Westminster. The stone is remarkable for its property of resisting fire. It is, however, subject to decay when exposed to the atmosphere. The parish is also celebrated for the excellence of its apple-orchards.

**MERSTON**, a parish in Sussex,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. SE by E of Chichester, crossed by the Arundel and Portsmouth canal. Area 710 acres. Pop. in 1851, 76.

**MERTEN**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Moselle, cant. and 11 m. ESE of Bouzonville, and 30 m. ESE of Thionville. Pop. 605. In its environs are mines of lead.

**MERTENNE**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. and arrond. of Antwerp, watered by the Schyn. Pop. of dep. 1,628; of village, 1,453.

**MERTHOR**, a parish in Cornwall, 4 m. W of Tregony. Area 1,726 acres. Pop. in 1831, 411; in 1851, 373.

**MERTHYR**, a parish in Carmarthenshire, 4 m. W of Carmarthen, on a branch of the river Taff. Pop. in 1831, 246; in 1851, 316.—Also a parish in Pembrokeshire, 6 m. SW of Fishguard. Pop. in 1831, 860; in 1851, 1,052.

**MERTHYR-CYNOG**, a parish in Brecon, 7 m. NW by N of Brecon, on a branch of the Usk, including the hamlets of Dyffryn, Lower and Upper Yskir-Vawr, and Yskir-Vechan. Pop. in 1801, 893; in 1851, 825.

**MERTHYR-DOVAN**, a parish in Glamorgan-

shire,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. SW by S of Cardiff. Pop. in 1801, 128; in 1831, 130; in 1851, 152.

**MERTHYR-MAWR**, a parish in Glamorganshire, 2 m. SW of Bridgend, on the river Ogmore. Pop. in 1831, 147; in 1851, 154.

**MERTHYR-TYDVIL**, a parish and parliamentary borough in the hund. of Caerphilly, county of Glamorgan, 15 m. S by E of Brecon, 21 m. NNW of Cardiff, and 171 m. W of London. The parish is intersected by the river Taff, the Cardiff canal, and the Taff-valle railway. Pop. of p. in 1801, 7,705; in 1831, 22,083; in 1851, 46,378.—The parish consists of five large hamlets: viz. Garth, Gellydeg, Hoelch-Wormwood, Forest, and Taff-with-Cynon. The three northern hamlets, first named, meet together near the point where the principal mass of the town stands; the two southern are principally agricultural. The town, consisting chiefly of labourers' cottages, lies scattered in detached masses about the valley and on the hills, at the upper end of a narrow valley where the Morlais unites its waters with the Taff; and fresh groups have for years been continually rising in the vicinity of the great iron and coal works for which M. is celebrated. The total length of the town from the turnpike near Plymouth works to the extremity of Dowlais is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. Its situation is airy and healthy. Its lowest point is about 500 ft. above the level of the sea-docks at Cardiff; and Dowlais rises about 500 ft. above the lowest point of M. The district is naturally bleak, rough, and sterile; but has been highly improved under the auspices of the wealthy iron-masters, some of whom have elegant residences in the vicinity of the town. About the year 1755, the district attracted the notice of Mr. Anthony Bacon, member for Aylesbury, who obtained a lease of 99 years' duration, at a rent of £200 per annum, of a tract of land 8 m. in length, by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. in breadth. On the premises he erected extensive iron and coal-works, and, having accumulated a splendid fortune, disposed of this mineral kingdom by leases to different parties about 1783. The Cyfartha, the Dowlais, the Plymouth, and the Pen-y-darraig works, all on a most extensive scale, are situated in this district. Between 4,000 and 5,000 persons were lately employed at the Dowlais works, which constitute by far the largest establishment of the kind in the world. The quantity of iron forged at them was estimated, even previously to the great demand for railways, at more than 1,000 tons weekly; in the transmutation of which as many tons of coals were consumed. M. is one of the greatest seats of the bar-iron trade; and so extensive are the rolling-mills, now almost exclusively occupied in the production of railway-bars, that it is found necessary to import a quantity of pig-iron, chiefly from Scotland, to supply the demand, as well as large quantities of iron ore of various qualities. The exports at Cardiff afford an idea of the extent of the iron-trade of M.; but the quantity of iron produced is of course much larger. The chief firms sometimes accumulate large stocks, which they work up when times are very prosperous. In 1796 there were 9 furnaces, at present there are 44 in M. including Dowlais. "Merthyr-Tydvil," says De la Beche, "presents an excellent example of the economic value of geological conditions; the proximity of the carboniferous limestone, the coal, and iron-stone, to each other, in that part of the country, producing a cheap combination of flux, fuel, and ore, scarcely to be surpassed." Lead is also found here: several of its lead-mines, indeed, as well as its iron, are supposed to have been worked by the Romans. The iron, when formed into bars, was until a recent period chiefly transported to Pennarth, the port of Cardiff, by the Cardiff or Glamorgan canal, and the

adjacent railroad, and thence shipped for the home and foreign markets; but since the formation of the Taff-vale railway, opened from M. to Cardiff on 1st May 1841, the iron-traffic is chiefly conducted by it. A railway has also been formed between M. and Brecon, communicating on the one hand with the Taff-vale railway, and on the other with the Brecknock and Abergavenny canal. The woollen manufacture has also been introduced at M. Dowlais occupies the upper part of the town; and is approached by a long street stretching for considerably more than a mile up a steep ascent beyond the Pen-y-darrian works. This narrow valley is blocked up to a great extent by enormous black banks of cinders, &c., compared with which the largest railway embankments are mere pigmies. Additions are of course constantly being made to these banks, and it appears to a looker-on a hazardous operation to bring a horse and tram close to the edge of the lofty ends or tips for the purpose of shooting the contents over the precipice. As the tips in progress are formed of hot cinders, they are on fire from nearly top to bottom, and glow like lava. Rivulets of hot-water wash the bases of these gloomy banks. The scene is strange and impressive in broad day-light, but when viewed at night it is wild beyond conception. The vivid glow and roaring of the blast-furnaces near at hand,—the lurid light of distant works,—the clanking of hammers and rolling mills,—the confused din of massive machinery,—the burning headlands,—the coke-hearths, now, if the night be stormy, bursting into sheets of flame, now wrapt in vast and impenetrable clouds of smoke,—the wild figures of the workmen in this apparently infernal scene,—all combine to impress the mind of the spectator very singularly and powerfully.

The first dissenting congregation in Wales was formed in this p. in 1620 by Vavasor Powell. There are now 35 dissenting congregations with places of worship, in most of which the Welsh language alone is used. The number of common day-schools in Feb. 1840 was 15; of dame and infant-schools 8: total attendance 1,322 children. There were also 19 Sunday schools. In 1847 there were 41 day-schools, and 36 Sunday schools. The attendance at the day schools was 2,301; at the Sunday schools, 6,902. There are 4 adult schools. The state of education amongst the operatives here is in a very unsatisfactory state.—The M. poor-law union comprehends 9 parishes, with a pop. returned in 1831 at 34,181; in 1851, at 76,804. The average annual expenditure on the poor of this district, during the three years preceding the formation of the union, was £7,580. Expenditure in 1838, £6,118; in 1840, £6,144; in 1846, £8,552; in 1849, £19,365.

Under the Reform act, M. was erected into a separate borough, to return one member. The pop. of the parl. borough in 1841 was 42,917; in 1851, 63,080. The number of electors registered in 1837 was 582; in 1847, 822. M. is a polling-place at the county elections.

**MERTINGEN**, a village of Bavaria, in the circle of Swabia, 24 m. NNW of Augsburg, near the l. bank of the Schmutter. Pop. 712. It has several breweries.

**MERTOLA**, a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Alentejo, comarca and 36 m. N of Tavira, on a steep mountain, near the r. bank of the Guadiana. Pop. 5,000. It is enclosed by walls; and contains a convent, an alms-house, and an hospital.

**MERTON**, a parish of Devonshire, 5 m. NNW of Hatherleigh, on a branch of Torridge river. Area 3,738 acres. Pop. in 1831, 740; in 1851, 790.—Also a parish in the co. of Norfolk, 2 m. S of Watton. Area 1,362 acres. Pop. in 1831, 126; in 1851, 188.—

Also a p. in Oxfordshire, 2½ m. S by W of Bicester, and N of the Ray. Area 1,990 acres. Pop. in 1831, 234; in 1851, 200.—Also a parish and village in Surrey, 8 m. SW by S of London, on the Wandie, which is here crossed by a bridge, and on the Southampton and London railway. Area 1,780 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,447; in 1851, 1,870.—Also a parish in Berwickshire, bounded on all sides except the N by Roxburghshire, and bordered on the W and S by the Tweed. Area 5,550 acres. Pop. in 1851, 692.

**MERTVOI-DONETZ**, a river of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of the Don-Cossacks and district of Tcherkask. It forms an arm of the principal branch of the Don, from the r. side of which it separates, near Guilovskoi, 5 m. below Rostov; flows W, and throws itself into the sea of Azof near Siniaivka, and after a course of about 24 m.

**MERTVOI-KULTUK**, or **DEAD BAY**, an extensive embasure on the E side of the Caspian sea, in Independent Tartary, to the S of Mersa bay, and separated from the sea of Aral by a tract of land not exceeding 90 m. in breadth. It is about 150 m. in length, 60 m. in medium breadth, and near its S shore varies from 13 to 24 fath. in depth. The width of its entrance is estimated at about 120 m. On the S side it throws out a long arm named Tyuk-kara-su, and terminating in a curve distinguished as Black Lake bay. The principal islands contained in the bay are Pustiennoi, Buiskii, and Novi-Ostrova. The shores are bordered on all sides with mountains, especially along its southern prolongation, where are the extensive ranges of the Oksaka-Andrakli and Airakli mountains. It receives no river of importance. The principal place on its banks is Jedel-kamai, and Novo-Alexandrovsk or New Alexandria. Its vicinity is frequented by the Kirghiz of the Little Horde.

**MERTY**, a town of Nigritia, in Bornu, 45 m. SSE of Kuka, to the SW of Lake Tchad.

**MERTZWILLER**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Lower Rhine, cant. and 5 m. S of Niederbronn, on the r. bank of the Zintz. Pop. 1,926.

**MERU**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Oise, and arrond. of Beauvais.—The cant. comprises 20 com. Pop. in 1831, 9,874; in 1841, 10,437.—The town lies in a valley, on a small river of the same name. Pop. in 1841, 2,727. It has extensive manufactories of articles in mother-of-pearl, ivory, tortoise-shell, bone, horn, and wood, metres, and other instruments, agricultural implements, hardware, whiting, stained-paper, leather, lace and blonde; and carries on an active trade, chiefly in the above-named articles.

**MERU**, a river of New South Wales, in Wellington co., which flows through a district about 30 m. N of the Turon, in a W and NW direction to the Cudjegang an affluent of the Macquarie, which it joins on the l. bank, in about S lat. 32° 40', and E long. 149° 40'. Very rich gold-diggings have been established along this stream, and its affluents Louisa-creek and Oakey-creek. Numerous veins of quartz, some of them very large, are distributed through the district intersected by the M. The gold obtained at the lower part of the creek is generally fine and water-worn; there are, however, a good many small nuggets. The principal diggings are at the junction of Louisa-creek, where a village is rapidly springing up; and along the creek for several miles. The Nugget-vein company of Sydney has its establishment higher up the creek, where a quartz vein runs nearly N and S about 1½ m., on the top of three successive ridges, disappearing in the valley between. The centre-ridge, called Nugget-hill, where Dr Kerr's celebrated 100 lb. nugget was found, presents to the eye one immense body of quartz more than 40 ft. wide and about 400



yds. in length. This ridge is the main trunk of the auriferous quartz formations in the locality. The company have erected a quartz crushing machine driven by a six-horse steam-engine, and also a pug-mill for washing alluvial soil worked by an engine of one horse power, and capable of washing 70 cart-loads per day. Several such mills are being built at the neighbouring diggings. A correspondent of the *Sydney Morning Herald* calculates that the Great Nugget hill must contain 100,000 tons of quartz, and values the ton at £116. If his data be correct, this hill must yield £11,600,000 minus the working-expenses! Another Sydney paper, in announcing the formation of this company, asserts that the calcined quartz contains gold at the rate of £514 per ton!

**MERUD**, or **AMARAVATI**, a town of Hindostan, in the presidency of Bombay, and prov. of Aurungabad, 54 m. ESE of Punah, on the r. bank of the Korra. It is enclosed by a high wall, and defended on the S by a fort in which there is a gun of remarkable size.

**MERULO**, a small river of Naples, on the confines of the prov. of Abruzzo-Citra.

**MERUNS**, a village of France, in the dep. of La Charente, cant. and 4 m. SW of Cognac, on the l. bank of the Charente. Pop. 512.

**MERUOCO**, a mountain of Brazil, in the prov. of Ceara, and district of Januaria. Its highest summit is in S lat. 3° 17' 55", W long. 40° 5' 46". On it is a village of the same name.

**MERVANS**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Saône-et-Loire, cant. and 5 m. NW of Saint-Germain-du-Bois, on the Guiothe. Pop. 1,950.

**MERVE**, **MERYI-SHAH-JEHAN**, **MERU-SHAHIDJAN**, or **MARO-SHAHIDJAN**, a town of Turkomania, in the khanate and 300 m. SE of Khiva, in an oasis of the same name. It is enclosed by an earthen wall, and is about 4 m. in circumf. Its pop., which does not now exceed 3,000, consists chiefly of Persians. This town is supposed to be on the site of *Antiochia-Margiana* founded by Alexander the Great. It was for a long time one of the four great cities of Khorassan, and was the cap. of the Seljuk and several other dynasties. It was taken and pillaged in 1786 by the Uzbeks, and has never since recovered its former importance. The environs were formerly noted for their fruit.

**MERVE-RUD**, **MARV-ROUD**, **MERY-URRUD**, **MEROCHAR**, or **MEROE'**, a town of Persia, in the prov. of Khorassan, 120 m. NE of Herat, and 210 m. ESE of Mushed, on the Morg-ab.

**MERVENT**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Vendée, cant. and 5 m. NW of Saint-Hilaire-des-Loges, near the r. bank of the Vendée. Pop. 1,338.

**MERVILLE**, or **MERGHEM**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Nord, and arrond. of Hazebrouck. The cant. comprises 5 coms. Pop. in 1831, 18,833; in 1841, 19,834. The town is 8 m. SE of Hazebrouck, and 21 m. W of Lille, on the l. bank of the Lys, and at the junction of the Canal-de-la-Bourre. Pop. 6,282. It is well-built, and possesses extensive manufactories of linen, plain and damask, cotton-velvet, starch, and Prussian blue; several salt-refineries and oil-mills, numerous breweries, a wax-work, extensive tanneries, brick and tile-works, &c. The trade consists chiefly in grain, cattle, wood, and charcoal. Boat-building forms also an important branch of local industry. This town was annexed to France in 1677.

**MERVILLER**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Meurthe, cant. and 3 m. NE of Bacarat, and 17 m. SE of Lunéville. Pop. 698. It has a tile-work, and several quarries of freestone.

**MERWEDE**, a branch of the Meuse, in Holland, in the prov. of S. Holland, between Hardinxveld and Dordrecht, to the N of Bies-Boesch.

**MERXEM**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. and arrond. of Antwerp, watered by the Schyn. Pop. of dep. 1,628; of com. 1,453.

**MERXPLAS**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Antwerp, arrond. and 5 m. WNW of Tarnhout. Pop. 1,332.

**MERY**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Liege, and dep. of Tilff. Pop. 358.

**MERY-SUR-SEINE**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Aube, and arrond. of Arcis-sur-Aube. The cant. comprises 26 coms. Pop. in 1831, 11,572; in 1841, 11,977. The town is 13 m. WSW of Arcis-sur-Aube, and 18 m. NW of Troyes, on the r. bank of the Seine, which here becomes navigable. Pop. 1,362. It has numerous manufactories of cotton hosiery, extensive bleacheries, and several spinning-mills; and carries on an active trade in grain, wax, honey, hemp, wool, and hosiery. The rearing of bees, and cultivation of fruit, form extensive branches of industry in the environs. This town was almost entirely destroyed in 1814, when a sanguinary engagement took place in its vicinity between the French and Prussians.

**MERYLA**, a mountain of New South Wales, in the co. of Camden, near the Kangaroo river, and about 105 m. from Sydney.

**MERYOK**, a town of Nubia, in the district and 12 m. S of Halfay, near the r. bank of the Bahr-el-Azrek, 3 m. above its confluence with the Bahr-el-Abiad, and nearly opposite Khartum.

**MERZIG**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of the Rhine, chief town of a circle of the same name, in the reg. and 23 m. S of Treves, on the r. bank of the Saar. Pop. 8,450. It has building-docks, and several tanneries. Area of circle 66 sq. m. Pop. 22,606.

**MERZLA-VODICZA**, a village of Croatia, in the comitat and 72 m. WSW of Agram, and 17 m. ENE of Fiume. Lime is abundant in the environs.

**MESA (La)**, a town of New Grenada, in the dep. of Cundinamarca, prov. of Bogota, on the r. bank of the river of that name, and 30 m. SW of Santa-Fede-Bogota.

**MESA-DE-IBOR**, a town of Spain, in Estremadura, in the prov. and 63 m. ENE of Cáceres, and partido of Navalmaral-de-la-Mata, on the l. bank of the Tagus, at the junction of the Ibor. Pop. 334.

**MESA-DE-NAVAEZ**, a high and well-defined table-mountain of Lower California, to the S of San Diego, and in full view from that town and harbour. The parallel of 32° N lat. passes over its summit, marking the line between Upper and Lower California.

**MESAGNE'**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Loire-Inferieure, and cant. of Ancenis. Pop. 2,433.

**MESAGNO**, or **MESSAGNA**, a market-town of Naples, in the prov. of the Terra-d'Otranto, district and 11 m. WSW of Brindisi, at the foot of the Apennines. Pop. 5,000. It has a castle, several convents, and an alms-house. It has manufactories of kitchen utensils, and carries on a considerable trade in grain and oil.

**MESAS**, a town of Spain, in New Castile, in the prov. and 60 m. SW of Cuenca, and partido of Belmonte, in a flat and fertile locality. Pop. 1,160. It has manufactories of coarse woollen fabrics, linen, and gypsum.

**MESCALAXOS**, a village of Abyssinia, in the kingdom of Amhara, and prov. of Dembea, towards the NW extremity of the lake of that name, and 48 m. SW of Gondar.

**MESCHID**. See **MUSED**.

**MESEBERG**, or **MÖSEBERG**, a village of Prussia, in the reg. of Magdeburg, circle of Wolmirstadt. Pop. 516.

**MESEKENHAGEN**, a village of Prussia, in the prov. of Pomerania, reg. of Stralsund, and circle of Grimmen. Pop. 137.

**MESERTSCH** (Gross), or **MEZERIC-WELKY**, a municipal town of Austria, in Moravia, in the ldbg. of Brünn, in the circle and 20 m. E of Iglau, and 11 m. NNE of Trebitsch, on the Oslawa. Pop. 4,043, of whom 932 are Jews. It contains a castle, belonging to the princes of Lichtenstein. It has manufactories of cloth, and carries on an active trade in grain.

**MESERITSCH** (Walachisch), or **MEZERICZ-WALASKY**, a municipal town of Austria, in Moravia, in the ldbg. of Brünn, and circle of Prerau, on the l. bank of the Roznauer-Beczwa, opposite Krasna. Pop. 1,690. It has manufactories of cloth and linen.

**MESERITZ**, **MIEDZYLEC**, or **MIENDZYREZEC**, a circle and town of Prussia, in the prov. and reg. of Posen. Area of circle 183 sq. m. Pop. 28,068. The town is 60 m. W of Posen, and 48 m. ENE of Frankfort, on the l. bank of the Odra. Pop. 4,380. It is enclosed with walls, now in a ruinous condition, and contains a Lutheran and two other churches, and an alms-house. Cloth and leather are its chief articles of manufacture.

**MESGHID-ABAD**, a town of Turkey in Asia, in the pash. and sanj. and 66 m. WNW of Sivas. It lies between two mountains, and is surrounded by gardens and vineyards.

**MESHED**. See **MUSED**

**MESHRU**, wells in the S part of Fezzan, on the road from Murzuk to Kouka, 165 m. SE of the first of these towns. They are about 20 ft. in depth, and contain excellent water.

**MESILAH** (El), a town of Algeria, in the prov. of Constantine, 120 m. SE of Algiers, on the r. bank of the Kasaub, an affluent of Lake El Shutt.

**MESLAN**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Morbihan, and cant. of Le Faouet, 30 m. W of Pontivy. Pop. 1,699.

**MESLAY**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Mayenne, and arrond. of Laval. The cant. comprises 14 coms. Pop. in 1831, 11,630; in 1841, 12,639. The town is 15 m. SE of Laval. Pop. 1,506. It has a tannery, and brick and tile-kilns.

**MESLE-SUR-SARTHE** (Le), a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Orne, and arrond. of Alençon. The cant. comprises 16 coms. Pop. in 1831, 9,166; in 1841, 9,089. The town is 21 m. ENE of Alençon, on the r. bank of the Sarthe. Pop. 809.

**MESLIN L'EVEQUE**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and arrond. of Tournai. Pop. of dep. 1,835; of v. 670. It has manufactories of linen and of chicory.

**MESMIN** (SAINT), a village of France, in the dep. of the Loiret, cant. and 3 m. W of Olivet, and 4 m. SW of Orleans, on the r. bank of the Loiret, which is here crossed by a bridge. Pop. 1,400. It has a paper-mill, and numerous mills. It takes its name from Saint Maximin or Mesmin, who founded a Benedictine abbey here in the 5th cent.

**MESMIN**, or **MESMIN-LE-VIEUX** (Le), a commune of France, in the dep. of the Vendée, cant. and 5 m. ENE of Pouzauges, and 25 m. N of Fontenay-le-Comte. Pop. 1,220.

**MESMOULINS**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Seine-Inferieure, cant. and 13 m. from Fecamp. Pop. 189. It has several mineral wells.

**MESNAH**, a town of Nigritia, in the territory of Bagarmeh, 300 m. ESE of Kuka.

**MESNAY**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Jura, and cant. of Arbois, 7 m. E of Poligny. Pop. 1,147. It has several paper-mills.

**MESNIÈRES**, a village of France, in the dep. of

the Seine-Inferieure, cant. and 4 m. NW of Neufchatel, on the r. bank of the Bethune. Pop. 637. In an adjacent mountain are extensive shell deposits.

**MESNIL** (Le), a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Namur, and arrond. of Dinant. Pop. 370. See also **MENIL**.

**MESNIL-EGLISE**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Namur, and arrond. of Dinant. Pop. of dep. 250; of com. 200.

**MESNIL-SAINT-BLAISE**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Namur, and arrond. of Dinant. Pop. 559.

**MESO**, a river of Russia in Asia, in the gov. and district of Yeniseisk. It has its source about 240 m. NNW of Turukhansk; runs in a generally W direction; and, after a course of about 150 m., throws itself into the gulf of Tazof.

**MESOLA**, a town of the Pontifical states, in the leg. and 33 m. ENE of Ferrara, and 20 m. NNE of Comacchio, on the r. bank of the Po-di-Goro.

**MESOLONGHI**, or **MESOLONGHI**, a town of Greece, in Livadia, capital of the diocese of Aetolia, 21 m. SSW of Vrachori, and 24 m. W of Lepanto, on the N side of the gulf of Patras. It is the seat of the metropolitan of Acarnania, and has a gymnasium, a custom-house, and a small fishing-port. It was formerly a military post of considerable strength and importance. In 1826 it was besieged and taken by a Turko-Egyptian army, who lost under its walls no fewer than 30,000 men. It is noted also as the place in which Lord Byron breathed his last, on the 19th of April, 1824.

**MESONES**, a town of Spain, in Aragon, in the prov. and partido and 15 m. NE of Calatayud, on the l. bank of the Isuela, at the foot of a hill. Pop. 716. It has a castle. Hematite is found in the environs.

**MESOPOTAMIA**, a region of Asia, now chiefly comprised in the modern Turkish pashalic of Bagdad, and bearing the modern appellation of *Jezirah*, which is synonymous with the ancient Greek appellation, and denotes 'the Region between the rivers,' corresponding to the Hebrew *Ebhar* or *Shene-Nahar*. In its most extensive sense, either term applies to the whole region watered by the Euphrates and Tigris, to their confluence at Korna; but it is usually restricted to the NW portion, reaching from the ancient wall of Media—mentioned by Xenophon, and which extended NE from Macepracta on the Euphrates, to the Tigris a little above the modern Bagdad—NW to the source of the Tigris. The name M. is comparatively modern, not having been in use till after the time of the Macedonian conquest, when the political nomenclature of the region underwent a change. As Syria and M. were peopled by the descendants of Aram, the son of Shem, the former was called *Aram* simply, and the latter *Aram-Naharajim*, or 'Aram of the rivers.' It was also called 'Syria beyond the river,' in opposition to 'Syria Proper,' which lay to the W of the river. While the epithet *Aram-Naharajim* was applied to the whole of M., the western portion was denominated *Padan-Aram* and *Sede-Aram*, or 'the fertile and cultivated Aram,' in opposition to the eastern portion, which was dry and barren. The same distinction is made by Strabo, who divides M. into two parts,—one of which, situated nigh the mountains of Armenia, is fertile and delightful for its pastures and shrubs,—but the other part, towards the S, is destitute of water and barren, "where dwell the Scenite Arabs, accustomed to pillage, a wandering race moving from place to place with their herds and flocks." Strabo here certainly intends the SE portion beyond the Chaboras. This harmonizes exactly with the description given of M. by Xenophon in the first book of the *Anabasis*. Having narrated the passage of the younger Cyrus over the Euphrates, at Thapsacus, Xenophon says that he thence made three marches through Syria—that is *Padan-Aram*—to the river Araxes. Beyond this, he entered a desert of 18 marches to the plains of Babylonia, which he calls *Arabia*, in opposition to Syria, on account of its sterility, and marched the whole way along the r. bank of the Euphrates for the sake of water, the desert affording none. Five of these marches were through a plain level as the sea, full of wormwood, and totally destitute of trees: if any other kind of shrubs or reeds grew there, they had all an aromatic smell. Bustards, ostriches, antelopes, and wild asses, appeared to be the only inhabitants of this desert. The other 13 marches were through a hilly but equally barren tract, till they arrived at the *gylos* or passes into the Babylonian plains. This desert is now called the Desert of Sinjar, which Pliny in an after age included in Arabia, whence it would appear that the name *Arabia* was extended the whole way across M. in this part to the Tigris. If the term *Arabia* be significant of the nature of the region to which it is applied—as

deduced by Schleusner from the Hebrew *Orish*, 'a desert'—then its application by Xenophon, Pliny, and others to the SE division of M., is proper and just; Padan-aram, or the Syria of Xenophon, indicating the fertile portion of M., and Arabia, the desert or sterile part. It must be observed, however, that desert as this part is, it was full, in the days of Xenophon and Julian, of towns and villages on both banks of the Euphrates, and in the islands of the river, though they have all now disappeared. In ancient times it was the great caravan-road from the head of the Persian gulf, and from Babylon, when in the zenith of its prosperity, to the head of the Mediterranean, and it was this long continued inland commerce which supported these towns and their pop., as is evident from the case of Palmyra, which lay in this route, and was a great and renowned city in the days of Aurelian. In modern times M. has been, and still is, divided into three parts: DIABEKIR, or Diyar-Bekr, or the valley so called in Armenia, to which it naturally belongs,—DIARRODAR, or the interior part,—and DIARHABIA, or the southern part, the Arabia of Xenophon,—the whole being collectively denominated EL-JAZZIRAH, or 'the island' or 'peninsula,' as enclosed on all sides except the NW by the Euphrates and Tigris. Exclusive of Diarbekir, this territory is bounded on the N by the Karadji-Dagh, or Mount Masius, and the banks of the Tigris; on the W and S by the Euphrates, which divides it from Syria and the Syrian and Arabian deserts; on the SE by Irak-Arabi; and on the NE and E by the Tigris, which separates it from Kurdistan and the eastern portion of the pash. of Bagdad.—See articles BAGDAD and DIARBEKIR.

**MESOPOTAMIA**, a township of Trumbull co., in the state of Ohio, U. S., 171 m. NE of Columbus. Pop. in 1841, 832.

**MESORACA**, a town of Naples, in the prov. of Calabria-Citra, in the district and 20 m. SW of Cotrona. Pop. 2,074.

**MESPAUL**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Finistère, cant. and 5 m. SSW of St. Pol-di-Leon, 11 m. NW of Morlaix. Pop. 1,189.

**MESPELAERE**, a department and commune of France, in the dep. of East Flanders, and arrond. of Termonde, watered by the Dendre. Pop. of dep. 332; of com. 294.

**MESQUER**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Loire-Inferieure, cant. and 6 m. NNW of Gueraude, and 27 m. W of Savenay. Pop. 1,605. It has a considerable trade in salt.

**MESQUITELAN**, a village of Mexico, on the l. bank of the Muscala river or Balsas, near the point where it enters the state of Mexico from the state of Puebla, and in the former state. It has an alt. of about 2,000 ft. above sea-level, and a state-survey made in 1850 reports 3½ ft. of water in the channel of the Muscala to the junction of its great branch, the Atanango, one league below the v. of Sial-co-so-titlan. It is reported that Morelos, in the war of independence, brought up his artillery on rafts, by the Muscala, as far as the village of M., near which he was captured.

**MESQUITELLA**, a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Beira, comarca and 4 m. S of Linhares, and 15 m. WNW of Guarda, in a valley. Pop. 990.

**MESRATA**. See MESURATA.

**MESSA**, a town of Morocco, in the prov. of Susa, 75 m. SW of Taradant, on the l. bank of a river of the same name, and 9 m. above its entrance into the Atlantic.

**MESSAC**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Ile-et-Vilaine, cant. and 6 m. W of Bain, and 25 m. NW of Redon. Pop. 2,375.

**MESSAINCOURT**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Ardennes, cant. and 4 m. N of Carignan, and 11 m. W of Sedan, near the r. bank of an affluent of the Chiers. Pop. 560. It has a foundry and several forges.

**MESSANEY**, a department, commune, and town of Belgium, in the prov. of Luxembourg, and arrond. of Arlon, watered by a river of the same name. Pop. of dep. 1,960. The town is 15 m. W of Luxembourg. Pop. 684.

**MESSARA**, or **MALOGNEZI**, a river of Turkey in Europe, in the island of Candia. It takes its rise in Mount Lassiti; runs W; and throws itself into a gulf of the Mediterranean of the same name, after

a sinuous course of about 45 m. It receives the Metropolitano, on the r. bank, a little to the S of the ruins of Gortyna.—Also a district in the southern part of the island. It is partly mountainous, but consists, in its greater extent, of a fine plain, intersected by the river of the same name, and reputed the most fertile portion of the island. It produces corn said to be the finest in Turkey, barley, lint, cotton, and varieties of fruit. The mountains contain marble, granite, and jasper.

**MESSAS**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Loiret, cant. and 2 m. N of Beaugency, near the r. bank of the Loire. Pop. 1,158.

**MESSAY**, a river of Ecuador, in the dep. of Asuay, an affluent of the Japura.

**MESSEI**, or **MESSEY** (**SAINT-GERVAIS-DE**), a canton and commune of France, in the dep. of the Orne, and arrond. of Domfront. The cant. comprises 10 com. Pop. in 1831, 11,815; in 1841, 11,975. The village is 12 m. E of Domfront. Pop. 1,518.

**MESSEIX**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Puy-de-Dome, cant. and 3 m. S of Bourg-Lussac, and 32 m. WSW of Clermond-Lastic. Pop. 1,880.

**MESSEJANA**, a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Alentejo, comarca and 15 m. N of Ourique, and 24 m. WSW of Beja. Pop. 1,214. It is enclosed by walls, and has a convent. It is the residence of the corregidor, or chief civil magistrate of the comarca.

**MESSELBROEK**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Brabant and arrond. of Louvain, watered by the Demer. Pop. of dep. 419; of com. 110.

**MESSENE**. See MAVROMATI.

**MESSENIA**, an eparchy or department of Greece, in the Morea, bordered on the NW by the dep. of Triphylia; on the NE by that of Mantinea; on the E by the dep. of Lacedemonia; and on the S by that of Laconia and the gulf of Koron or Messenia. It is generally hilly, and is watered by the Panisus, by which it is intersected from NNE to SSW, by the Nedon in the E, and by several minor streams. To the N of the ruins of the ancient Messene is Mount Ithone, which has an alt. of 3,865 ft. Its chief town is Calamata.

**MESSERGUIN**, a village of Algeria, in the prov. and 7 m. SW of Oran, on Lake Sebkah. It was formerly the residence of the beys of Oran.

**MESSERN**, a town of the archduchy of Austria, in the upper circle of the Manhartsberg, 26 m. N of Krems, and 11 m. ENE of Altensteig.

**MESSERY**, a village of Sardinia, in the prov. of Chablais, 11 m. WSW of Thonon, mand. and 3 m. NNW of Douvaine. Pop. 485. It has, opposite the door of the church, a military column, with a dedication, now much defaced, to Septimus Severus.

**MESSEY-SUR-GROSNE**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Saone-et-Loire, and cant. of Buxy, 12 m. SW of Châlons-sur-Saone, on the Goulonse, and near the l. bank of the Grosne. Pop. 1,105.

**MESSIGNY**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Cote-d'Or, cant. and 7 m. N of Dijon. Pop. 700.

**MESSIN**, or **EVÈCHE** (**DE-METZ**), a district of France, in the N part of the ancient prov. of Lorraine, and now comprised in the departments of the Moselle, Meuse, and Ardennes. It derived its name from that of Metz its capital.

**MESSINA**, a city of Sicily, situated at the NE extremity of that island, on the E shore of the straits of the same name, formed by a promontory of Calabria on the continental side, and Cape Pelorus on the Sicilian coast, the intermediate distance being 3,590 yds. For its "imposing grandeur and beautiful site, M. is scarcely to be equalled." [Hughes.] One side of the city rises from a narrow plain on the shore, along the declivity of a chain of hills finely



wooded and diversified, and another sweeps round the margin of a beautiful harbour. Towering above the secondary chain of hills rises the primitive Neptunian chain, to the height of 1,600 or 1,800 ft. above sea-level, forming a noble background. Its sickle-shaped harbour,—its wide Marino,—its noble buildings,—its forts and castles,—vine-covered hills, elegant little *casinos*, classic straits, and the magnificent range of mountains both in the background and the opposing Calabria, compose a rich and varied picture. It is built with considerable regularity, nearly in the figure of a parallelogram, and consists of two long principal streets, besides a third on the quay, intersected by a number of others at right angles, all of which are paved with large blocks of lava. It contains several squares and open spaces embellished with statues and fountains, the latter copiously supplied from the neighbouring mountains, whence also torrents descend through the streets, where they are confined by walls to prevent their injuring the buildings. A street called the Marino or Palazzata, formed of a row of lofty elegant buildings, extends above 1 m. along the harbour, where the depth of water admits of the largest vessels approaching to the very edge. This street is penetrated by 18 or 20 gateways leading to the respective streets in the city, over which are sculptured appropriate designs and inscriptions; and one end terminates with the royal palace. M. contains numerous public edifices, among which are about 50 churches, many of fine architecture and internally decorated with paintings from the pencils of native masters. The cathedral, a spacious building of Gothic architecture, and highly embellished within, stands in an irregular square, on which there is a bronze equestrian statue of Charles III. of Spain. Antique granite columns, brought from a temple of Neptune once standing on the straits, support the vaulted roof of the cathedral, and the timber work of the nave. The great altar consists of mosaic work, richly executed in jasper, agate, lapis lazuli, and other remarkable marbles, and pastes of various colours, whose combination, together with gilded bronze, produces an imposing effect. There are in M. not fewer than 30 convents for both sexes, for the most part very large and highly ornamented. The public hospital is a fine building capable of receiving several hundred patients. The public prison is a fine structure, in one of the principal streets. M. also contains two houses-of-correction for women. The royal palace and senate-house are fine buildings; but, upon the whole, M. shows more of what it has been of former opulence and grandeur, than of present prosperity. There are several public libraries, but only two of them are of importance. The city is surrounded by an old irregular wall founded by Charles V., and is defended by the two forts of Gonzago and Matagrifone; while the harbour is protected by a pentagonal fortification called the citadel, erected in 1679, which has casemates for 5,000 men. Near it is the lazaretto. The harbour of M. is the best port of Sicily, being sheltered from all winds, and having not less than from 20 to 40 fathoms water close to the quay, so that the heaviest vessels lie at the edge of the "cleanest and most picturesque of quays." [Simond.] The entrance to the harbour, which is only 700 yds. wide, is defended on the W side by the bastion of Porta Reale, and on the isthmus by Fort Salvatore. There are also coast-batteries and forts from the Faro to Scaletta.—This city has always been a place of considerable trade. A large proportion of the produce of the island is exported from it. The produce of the environs is principally fruits and wines, and the chief manufacture consists of silks. What is called the Faro red wine, is in repute on account of its strength and resemblance to port.

In addition to the quantity made for home-consumption, about 10,000 pipes are exported yearly. The other exports are dried figs, citrons, oranges, lemons, lemon-juice, manna, essence of bergamot, red tartar, goat-skins, hides, mottled soap, linen, and rags. During several centuries silk-worms have been successfully reared in the vicinity of M., and their produce is to be ranked among the first sources of its opulence. There are several extensive silk manufactories here; many years since 1,200 looms were employed in the city. A portion of the inhabitants find occupation in the coral fishery; and in that of the sword-fish during certain seasons of the year. About 18 or 20 vessels, each navigated by 8 men, who are exclusively Messinese, on account of their superior personal strength and skill are engaged in the first. They obtain nearly 3,000 lbs. of coral yearly; but the fishermen consider this a secondary employment, and to be followed only when none more profitable occurs. In the capture of the sword-fish, from 8 to 12 barks, each provided with two boats, are employed. The fishermen use either strong nets; or a harpoon so constructed that on striking the fish, the shaft is disengaged from the iron head, while both are retained by a cord 600 ft. long.—During its most flourishing condition, in the course of the preceding cent., the inhabitants of M. are supposed to have amounted to 100,000; successive public calamities, however, reduced them to 25,000, or 26,000, in 1781. In 1798, by an actual enumeration, the pop. was found to amount to 45,000 souls; but so rapid has been the increase of late years that in 1831 it comprised, inclusive of the suburbs, 83,772.—M. is a place of great antiquity. It was first known by the name of *Zancle*, or *Dancle*, from one of its founders; or, according to some etymologists, from the fancied resemblance of its harbour to a sickle. A new colony having come hither from *Mycene* in Greece, it was thenceforward called *Messana*. At a later date it was the scene of sanguinary hostilities between the Romans and Carthaginians. In modern history it has been chiefly celebrated for its misfortunes. When in a very prosperous condition, the plague, introduced it is said by a vessel from the Levant, in 1743, swept away 35,000 souls in the course of a few months. Before having completely recovered from this disaster, the inhabitants were visited by another awful calamity. At noon, on the 5th of February, 1783, amidst a torrent of hail and rain, accompanied by loud peals of thunder, an earthquake shook the city to its foundations. Incessant undulations continued during several successive hours; at length a tremendous concussion, at about 7 or 8 o'clock of the evening, completed the overthrow of the more solid edifices. Half of the city was now levelled with the ground; one quarter of it rendered ruinous; and the remaining portion greatly damaged. The Palazzata, almost throughout its entire length, was injured; and scarcely any, excepting those structures occupying the higher grounds, were spared. To aggravate the public calamity, conflagrations, succeeding the earthquake, ravaged the city during seven days; and the licentious, availing themselves of the general disorder, pillaged and murdered the defenceless without remorse. About 200 shocks were felt within the two months following; and the city, since that time, has been repeatedly threatened with another convulsion. During the continental war, M. was the head-quarters of the British army, amounting, in 1806, to 10,000 men, sent for the protection of Sicily; and to observe the motions of Murat's army, whose tents covered the hills on the other side of the Straits.

The administrative prov. of M. comprises the 4 *distretti* of M., Castorale, Patti, and Mistretta, besides the Lipari islands. Pop. in 1842, 338,352.

**MESSINA (FARO DI),** or STRAITS OF MESSINA, a name given to that part of the Mediterranean which lies between the NE part of Sicily and the coast of Italy. As in some places these straits are from 12 to 15 m. in breadth, and in the narrowest part 2,783 geometrical paces broad, they have been occasionally passed by swimming; as actually happened when Messina was captured by the Carthaginians, when, it is alleged, many of the inhabitants saved themselves by swimming across to Italy. The rock of Scylla which poets have delighted to depict in the most terrific colours, is described by Smyth as a common sea-rock of bold approach, a little worn at its base, and surmounted by a castle. The tower or Faro point is exactly 6,047 yds. from this classical burgear. The distance across the straits from Ganziri village to Point Pozzo is 3,971 yds.; from Messina lighthouse to Point Orso, 5,427 yds.; outside the tongue of land that forms the harbour of Messina, lies the celebrated vortex of Charybdis, which has, with much more reason than Scylla, been clothed with terror by the writers of antiquity. To the undecked boats of the ancients it must have been very formidable; for even in the present day, small craft are endangered by it, and a 74 gun-ship will be whirled round on its surface. During the years from 1806 to 1816, when the English held possession of Sicily, great exertions were made to ensure the safety of ships entering the straits, without, however, preventing many accidents. In 1813, a Greek xebec sank in Charybdis; some months later a Sicilian brig was lost there; in the beginning of 1815 an English vessel, manned with 75 first-rate seamen, was dragged into the whirlpool and dashed to pieces; the dead bodies of the crew were found on the following day 5 or 6 m. further south, in the direction of Scalcatta and Taormina. Panthey relates that four Frenchmen, in garrison at Reggio, undertook, one clear moonlight night, the bold project of swimming across the Faro; but that three of the men were lost, only one escaped with his bare life, to be welcomed by his countrymen in Messina. A modern journalist, of well-known scientific repute, says: "at 8 next morning [16th March 1848] we found ourselves in the straits of Messina; and our company sat down to breakfast, 'between Scylla and Charybdis,' unconscious of the smallest danger at a spot which the ancient mariner never passed without fear and trembling and prayers to Neptune. The terrors with which the ancient writers invested this strait were borrowed from the author of the *Odyssey*, who, using the poet's privilege, paints Scylla and Charybdis as two living 'divine' monsters, stationed at the opposite shores, who swallowed up ships and their crews. The description looks like pure mythology, yet some of its features seem to show that the poet had a slender basis of fact, and that some obscure account of the dangers of the strait had reached him. Modern navigators tell us that a strong current, varying with the moon's age, sets through the strait alternately northward and southward, every six hours, and with the counter-currents generated by the projecting shores, creates various whirlpools, some of them even of so small a diameter as 100 ft., which, though they do not now suck in and absorb vessels, yet often swamp boats by the violent agitation of the water, and dash ships against rocks and wreck them. An allusion to this phenomenon of periodical flux and reflux—a thing elsewhere unknown in the tideless Mediterranean—seems distinctly implied in what the poet says of Charybdis, 'who three times a day gulps up black water, and three times vomits it out again; and it is on the side of Charybdis, that is, the Sicilian shore, that the formidable whirlpools exist. He also correctly makes Scylla a high rock with clouds of spray—and Charybdis lower; but he strangely blends with the allegorical terrors of the strait the fabulous description of the Symplegades, or 'Wandering rocks' at the N extremity of the Thracian Bosphorus—a curious proof how vague and confused the poet's conceptions were of all countries beyond the shores of the Ionian sea and the Archipelago. The 'howling like that of whelps' attributed to Scylla, is supposed to represent the dashing of the sea on the rocks, and the goddess herself figures as a monster with six heads, who takes heavy custom from mariners coming within her reach, each of her heads having seized and devoured one of Ulysses' men. Narrow channels scoured by strong tides or currents are generally deep, and it need not therefore surprise us, that in the middle of this strait, which is just 1½ m. wide, no bottom is found with a line 200 fathoms. Silius Italicus says that the barking of dogs and crowing of cocks can be heard across the water, and some modern authors profess to have verified this. The shore is steep and rocky on the Italian side, but low and tame on the Sicilian till we approach Messina. Here the land on both sides is high, and with the N shoulder of *Ætna* rising in the distance, the strait possesses both beauty and grandeur. Its appearance naturally suggests the idea that Sicily was once united to Italy, and such was the notion of the ancients—

Trinacria quondam  
Italiam pars una fuit, sed pontus et æstus  
Motaverat situm.

Virgil attributes the separation apparently to an earthquake, for so the expression 'loca vi quondam et vasta convulsa ruina,' may be understood. Both he and Mela give tradition as their authority. It was undoubtedly, like many other pretended traditions, an inference from natural appearances." See CHARYBDIS.

**MESSINES,** a department, commune, and town of Belgium, in the prov. of West Flanders and arrond. of Ypres. Pop. 1,451. It has a school for the education of the children of the military.

**MESSIS,** a town of Turkey in Asia, in the pash. of Itshil, and sanjak of Sis, 21 m. E of Adana, on the Jihon, 18 m. NE of its entrance into the Mediterranean. It is defended by two forts, situated on either bank of the river, and connected by a stone-bridge. It is inhabited chiefly by Turkomans.

**MESSITER,** a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Liege, and dep. of Aube. Pop. 411.

**MESTA,** a town of Portugal, in the prov. of Beira, comarca and 19 m. NE of Trancoso, and 24 m. NNW of Pinhel. Pop. 1,335.

**MESTANZA,** a town of Spain, in the prov. and 30 m. SSW of Ciudad-Real, and partido of Almodovar-del-Campo, on a hill. Pop. 2,672. It has manufactories of lace, blonde, and of fine woollen fabrics.

**MESTCHOVSK,** a district and town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. of Kalouga. The district lies in the E part of the gov., and possesses but little fertility. Pop. 74,000. The town is 45 m. WSW of Kalouga, on the Tourca, at the confluence of two small rivers. Pop. 1,500. It has 3 churches, and carries on a considerable trade in hemp.

**MESTESONA,** a river of Greece, in the island of Negropont, which has its source in the mountains in the interior of the island, and flows ESE into the archipelago. On its S bank is a v. of the same name.

**MESTIZOS (PUNTA DE),** a headland of New Grenada, in the dep. of the Magdalena, on the W side of the entrance of the gulf of Morosquillo, in N lat. 9° 28', W long. 73° 54'.

**MESTO.** See KARA-SU.

**MESTRE,** or MAISTRA, a town of Austria, in Lombardy, in the gov. and deleg. and 6 m. NW of Venice, on the Marzenego, at the junction of the Mestre and Oselin canals, and on the railway to Vicenza. Pop. 6,000.

**MESTRE-ALVARO,** a mountain of Brazil, in the prov. of Espiritu-Santo. It is circular in form, and declines towards the sea.

**MESTSHERIAKS,** a Tartar people of Russia in Europe, consisting of about 2,000 families, inhabiting the governments of Nijni-Novgorod, Orenburg, and Perm. They are Mahomedians, and bear considerable resemblance to the Tartars of Oufa. In their manners and customs they bear a close affinity to the Bashkirs, but are generally milder in disposition. The rearing of cattle and of bees forms their chief branches of industry.

**MESURADO (CAPE),** a headland of Liberia, on the S side of the embouchure of a river of the same name, in N lat. 6° 19' 3", W long. 10° 50'. It consists of an isolated mountain, rising abruptly from a low flat shore, and descending rapidly towards the sea, but sloping gently landwards. The town of Monrovia is situated to the NE of this cape, on the S side of the embouchure of the Mesurado river. This river, of which the lower part only has been explored, intersects Liberia in a WSW direction. It is a broad and rapid but navigable river. At its mouth are Bank, Bally, and Perseverance islands, and within them is a good roadstead. The colony of Liberia originally bore the name of this cape.

**MESURATA,** or MESRATAH, a town of Africa, in the state and 130 m. ESE of Tripoli, and about 3 m. from the shore of the Mediterranean. It consists of detached groups of houses scarcely 10 ft. in height, constructed of rough stones and mud, and roofed with palm-leaves, or with a coating of sea-weed and mud; but forming streets crossing each other at right angles. It has manufactories of light stuffs, straw mats, earthen jars, sacks of goats' hair, glass beads, and other personal ornaments for the trade of the interior, and of carpets of different colours, esteemed chiefly for the quality of the wool of which they are made. The situation of this town, on the ordinary caravan-route from Egypt to Tripoli, renders its

commerce considerable; and its market is in general well-supplied with meat, vegetables, fruits, oil, man-teca, and salt.

MESURATA, or MISRATAH (RAS), a headland of Africa, in the state and 130 m. ESE of Tripoli, and 3 m. N of the town of Mesurata, at the W extremity of the gulf of Sidra, in N lat.  $32^{\circ} 25' 25''$ , E long.  $15^{\circ} 10'$ .

MESVIN, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and arrond. of Mons. Pop. 277.

MESVRES, or MEVRES, a canton and commune of France, in the dep. of the Saône-et-Loire, and arrond. of Autun. The cant. comprises 12 coms. Pop. in 1831, 8,142; in 1841, 8,369. The town is 8 m. S of Autun, on the Mevrin, an affluent of the Aroux. Pop. 938. It has a considerable trade in cattle. Granite of different colours is found in the environs.

META, a noble river of New Grenada, which has its sources in the Andes, to the S of Santa-Fe-de-Bogota; runs ESE. till it reaches the 6th parallel, when it bends E; forms to a considerable distance the SW boundary-line of Venezuela; and joins the Orinoco, on the l. bank, 30 leagues below the cataracts of Atures, in N lat.  $6^{\circ} 15'$ , W long.  $67^{\circ} 37'$ , after a total course of about 540 m. Its principal affluents are the Upia, Casiana, Crabo, Oripauro, Chire and Casanare, all of which it receives on the r. The chief place on its banks is Porto Maragal, at the junction of its head-streams the Blanco, Negro, and Umea rivers, in W long.  $74^{\circ}$ . This river is wide, and of considerable depth, and is navigable from Macuco near the plains of Atalayas. It is remarkable for the sluggishness of its course. Its waters abound with fish, one of which, named the *carihi*, 6 or 7 inches in length, is said to be extremely voracious and formidable in its attacks, even to the human species. Its flesh is much relished by the Indians. In 1811, Don Joze Madariaga, who was deputed on an important mission by the government of Caracas to that of Santa-Fe-de-Bogota, being desirous of procuring an easy communication between New Grenada and Venezuela, determined to return to Venezuela by the river M., then little known, and he effected it in the following manner. He took the road leading to the valley of Apiay, to the S of Bogota, and having travelled nearly 40 maritime leagues of 20 in the degree, he reached the river of Pachaquiario, which runs through this valley. He there provided himself with the necessary number of boats to convey his attendant suite. Having gone down the Pachaquiario till it joins the Rio-Negro, which runs from NW to SE, and which they likewise sailed down till its conjunction with the river Umeda, which comes from the W, they reached the river Umedea, 3 leagues distant from the Umeda. These three rivers, uniting at this place, take the name of Meta. At 7 leagues below this point is situated the mission of Cabullaro, on the banks of the M., on the N side; and 6 leagues further, on the same side, the river Upia falls into the M. Four leagues hence they discovered the river Tua, and on the opposite side is the mission of St. Michael-de-Tua, near a lake, 5 leagues from the mouth of the Tua. Seventeen leagues from this river, the M. receives from the N the river Vira. The M. having thus far flowed towards the NE, now inclines NNE. Between the Vira and the river Cusiana, about 16 leagues from the Vira, and 12 from the Cusiana, live several wandering Indian tribes, the Chucnas, Cabres, Guagivos, and some of the Achaguas; the S side is inhabited by another tribe of the Achaguas, and likewise by the Amarizanos. Buenavista is situated close to the torrent Areba, which discharges itself into the M. on the S side, 2 leagues down the Cusiana. Here is

likewise the mission Arimena, 4 leagues from the mouth of the Cravo; and opposite to it, on the other side, is the Surimena, on the torrent of Surimena, which enters the M. 1 league down the river Guarimena. The Guarimena falls into the M. from the N, near the river Cravo. On the S side, the M. receives the river Manacasia. Four leagues from the mouth of the Vira is the mission of Maquibo, near the torrent of the same name, and that of Casimena is situated on the Cusiana. Seventeen leagues from the Cravo, Madariaga discovered one of the largest islands in the M., which he called Berrio, from the name of one of his friends. This island is opposite to the mouth of the Guanapalo, which falls into the M. on the N side, and on its banks is the mission Guanapalo. On this side of the M. live the tribes of the Cataros, Chorotas, and Salivas; and on the S side, other tribes of the Cataros and Amarizanos. From the island Berrio to the river Casanare, the M. runs towards the NE, receiving the rivers Pauto, Guachiria, Ariporo, Aricaporo, and Chire, from the NW side, at the distance of 3, 7, 5, and 8 leagues from the Cravo. Nearly 2 leagues from the Chire is the mouth of the river Casanare, which contributes much to the fertility of the prov. of Los Llanos, the last of the provs. of New Grenada bordering Venezuela on that side. The M., until it reaches the Casanare, near that range of the Cordillera which traverses Venezuela and New Grenada, receives all the waters that fall from the mountains; but from the Casanare till it empties itself into the Orinoco, it is not increased by any considerable fall of water; for the rivers Arauca and Apure receive all the waters that come from the Cordillera in their neighbourhood. Soon after the junction of the Meta with the Orinoco, 51 leagues from the Casanare, is the randal of Cariven, where are enormous rocks in the river which produce such strong currents from the N that they endanger considerably the navigation of the Orinoco in that part. There are some other missions on the banks of the M., besides those already mentioned. That of St. Rosalia is almost opposite to the mouth of the Pauto, on the S side. Macuco near the torrent Orocué, is between the island Berrio and the river Cravo. Arimena, 8 leagues from Buenavista; and Cabiuna and Guacasia, near the torrents of the same name, 10 and 16 leagues from Arimena; are all on the S side of the M. All these missions are under the care of the friars of St. Austin of Bogota, who exerting a most laudable zeal, have persuaded many of the savage Indians to live in society. But it often happens that the newly converted Indians abandon the villages, without any motive of discontent, but simply from the remembrance of their first manner of living, which recurs to their minds with all the charms annexed to a wandering life in the most luxuriant forests. These emigrations sometimes take place without the previous knowledge of the missionaries, but very often they ask their permission, promising to come back after a certain number of sleeps, which is their way of measuring time. The example of the tribes who live unrestrained on the banks of the Orinoco and M., tends likewise strongly to promote these whimsical emigrations. It is a subject of regret that the difficulties which Don J. Madariaga had to overcome, in a savage country, where the fear of being attacked by the Indians constantly alarmed his little suite, should have prevented him from exploring the banks of the M., and of the principal rivers falling into it. Being the rainy season when he sailed down the M., his attention was constantly engrossed by the dangers of the navigation arising from the overflowing of this great river, which carried down wood in so great a quantity that it caused the wreck of some of his boats. The fre-



quency of showers also prevented the landing of our travellers. The uninterrupted range of forests bordering the river, is inhabited by numerous species of birds, which, by the brilliancy of their plumage, and the sweetness of their singing, enliven the solitary banks. The few plants cultivated by the missionaries grow luxuriantly; rice, for instance, yields three harvests in a year, and Madariaga relates having seen a sugar cane 18 inches in circumference. Owing to the want of necessary instruments, Don J. Madariaga could not determine the positions of the most remarkable points on the M. According to his observations, the depth in different parts varies from 4 to 8 fathoms, and the breadth from 1 to 2½ m. After having navigated the M., our travellers went down the Orinoco to the mouth of the Apure; and then going up the Apurito, and the Guarico, they landed at Calabozo, five days' journey from Caracas, to which place they proceeded.

**METAE**, a town of Afghanistan, in the Daragat, 10 m. W of Dera-Ismail-khan.

**METAIRES (LES)**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Charente, cant. and 2 m. NNE of Jarnac-Charente. Pop. 500. The environs afford good wine.

**METAL**, a township of Franklin co., in the state of Pennsylvania, U.S. Pop. in 1840, 1,113.

**METAMORA**, a township of Lapeer co., in the state of Michigan, U.S. Pop. in 1840, 350.

**METARIEH**. See **MATARIEH**.

**METARO**, or **METAURO**, a river of the Pontifical States, in the deleg. of Urbino, which has its source at Lemole, 6 m. SW of Mercatello, flows past S. Angelo-in-Vado, Urbania, and Fossombrone, and throws itself into the Adriatic, 1½ SW of Fano, after a course in a generally NE direction of 48 m. In winter, it is a strong and rapid stream. Its principal affluent is the Cantiano which it receives on the r. This river, the ancient *Metaurus*, is celebrated for a victory which was gained by the Romans over Asdrubal. Under the kingdom of Italy it gave its name to a dep. of which the chief place was Ancona, and which now forms the delegs. of Urbino and Ancona.

**METAXATA**, a village of Cephalonia, in the district of Lavato, 6 m. SE of Argostoli.

**METCHA-KRASIVAIA**, a river of Russia in Europe, which has its source in the gov. of Tula and district of Bogoroditzk; passes Yefremov, enters the gov. of Tambor, and throws itself into the Don, on the l. bank, 9 m. S of Lebédin, and after a course in a generally SE direction of 120 m.

**METCHICOT**, a lake of Upper Canada, about 150 m. N of Lake Superior, in N lat. 50° 55', and W long. 88° 30'. Its outlet, the Tickmeq, which issues from it on the N, flows into the Albany, an affluent of Hudson's bay.

**METCHIGMON**, a gulf of Russia in Asia, on the E coast of the district of Tchukotsk, a little to the S of Behring's straits. It is about 45 m. in length, and 15 m. in medium breadth.

**METCOVICH**, a town of Dalmatia, on the frontier of Herzegovina, 7 hours SW of Mostar, situated on a steep hill. It is badly built, but occupies a healthy position, and is well situated for trade, having easy access to the sea on one hand, and a valley-road to Mostar, along the Neretva, on the other. Its principal article of trade with the Turks is salt.

**METELAR**. See **CRISTAL**.

**METELEN**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of Westphalia, regency and 24 m. NW of Munster, circle and 5 m. W of Steinfurt, on the l. bank of the Vechta. Pop. 1,400.

**METELIN**. See **MITLENE**.

**METEOKA ROCKS**, a group of rocks in the Turkish pash. and 8 m. NNW of Trikala. They rise in isolated peaks at the end of a range of rocky

hills, which "seems to have been broken off by some earthquake or washed away by the deluge, leaving only a series of 20 or 30 tall, thin, smooth, needle-like rocks, many hundred feet in height,—some like gigantic tusks, some shaped like sugarloaves, and some like vast stalagmites. These rocks surround a beautiful grassy plain, on three sides of which there grow groups of detached trees, like those in an English park. Some of the rocks shoot up quite clean and perpendicularly from the smooth green grass; some are in clusters, some stand alone like obelisks." [*Curzon*.] On the tops of these rocks there now remain seven Greek monasteries, out of more than thrice that number. Running NE from the foot of the range is a finely cultivated valley watered by a river of the same name, which descends from the W flank of Mount Cachias, traverses Lake Mayrili, and falls into the Cacha or Salembria.

**METEPEC**, a town in the state and 36 m. SW of the city of Mexico. It contains about 972 families, of whom 910 are Indian.

**METEREN**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Nord, cant. and 2 m. W of Bailleul. Pop. 2,362.

**METFIELD**, a parish in Suffolk, 8¼ m. SE by E of Harleston. Area 2,162 acres. Pop. in 1851, 651.

**METHAM**, a township in the p. of Howden, E. R. of Yorkshire, 4½ m. SE by E of Howden, and N of the Humber. Area 920 acres. Pop. in 1851, 69.

**METHAMIS**, or **METAMIES (LES)**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Vancluse and cant. of Montmoiron, 18 m. NE of Avignon. Pop. 1,020. Coal is extensively wrought in the locality.

**METHANA**, or **DARA**, a town of Greece, in the Morea, capital of the district of Helmonide and Trazenia, 39 m. SW of Athens, on a peninsula of the same name, on the Saronic gulf. Sepia and sponges abound in the vicinity. The peninsula is 9 m. in length, and is connected with the continent by an isthmus about ¾ of a mile in breadth.

**METHERINGHAM**, a parish of Lincolnshire, 8½ m. SE of Lincoln. Area 4,590 acres. Pop. in 1831, 880; in 1851, 1,522.

**METHGETHEN**, a village of Prussia, in the regency and NW of Königsberg. Pop. 205.

**METHILL**, a small seaport-town of Fifeshire, in the p. of Wemyss, on the frith of Forth, 1 m. W of Leven. Pop. of town in 1831, 509; in 1841, 466. Pop. of annexed district about 1,700.

**METHLEY**, a parish in the W. R. of Yorkshire, 5¼ m. NE by N of Wakefield, and on the North Midland railway. Area 3,240 acres. Pop. in 1831, 1,593; in 1851, 1,926.

**METHLICK**, a parish in Aberdeenshire, comprising an area 6 m. in length, and 5 m. in breadth, watered from NW to SE by the Ythan. Pop. in 1831, 1,439; in 1851, 1,997.

**METHONE**, or **MODON**, a seaport-town of Greece, in the Morea, capital of the district of Pylla, 7 m. S of Navarino, and 140 m. SW of Athens, on the Mediterranean, opposite the island of Sapienza. Pop. 800. It is detached from the continent by a narrow channel crossed by a wooden bridge; and is defended on the N by a high tower; on the E by a double wall; on the W by a strong wall based on a ridge of steep rocks. On the S side, on a promontory, are another tower and a powder-magazine. The town is small and ill-built, and the streets narrow and dirty. It suffered much from the explosion of the powder-magazine, on the occasion of the destruction by fire of a Turkish fleet in the roadstead in 1825. The port possesses little shelter, but it has a good roadstead, and, from its vicinity to the gulf of Coron, possesses considerable importance. This town fell at an early period into the hands of the Venetians, and was again taken by them in 1686.

and fortified. In 1715 it fell under the dominion of Topal-Osman. It suffered much from the Russian invasion in 1770, and was the same year abandoned to the Turks. The Greeks, in the war of independence, rendered themselves masters of it; but it was taken from them by Ibrahim Pasha soon after his arrival in the Morea. It was finally restored to Greece in 1828.

**METHOP-WITH-ULPHA**, a township in the p. of Beetham, Westmoreland, 4 m. ENE of Cartmel, at the mouth of the Kent. Area 3,561 acres. Pop. in 1881, 86; in 1851, 78.

**METHUEN**, a township of Upper Canada, in the Colborne district. It contains several lakes, one of which, in the NW corner, is of considerable size.

**METHUEN**, a township of Essex co., in the state of Massachusetts, U. S., 26 m. N by W of Boston, on the N side of Merrimack river. It has a hilly surface, and is watered by Spicket river, an affluent of the M. The soil is generally fertile. Pop. in 1840, 2,251. Pop. of village 1,000.

**METHVEN**, a parish in the Strathmore district of Perthshire, intersected by the Almond river. Pop. in 1881, 2,714; in 1841, 2,446, of whom about 1,000, chiefly cotton weavers, are in the village of M., which is 6 m. from Perth. Pop. in 1851, 2,454.

**METHWOLD**, a parish and market-town in the co. of Norfolk, 33 m. SE. by S of Stoke-Ferry. Area 13,192 acres. Pop. in 1881, 1,266; in 1851, 1,669.

**METHY**, a lake of British North America, a little to the E of the Rocky mountains, in the district of Saskatchewan, in N lat. 52° 10', and W long. 113° 55'. It discharges itself into Red Deer's river, an affluent of the S branch of the Saskatchewan.—Also a lake in the district of English river, connected by a portage on the N with the Athabasca river, and on the S by Buffalo and La Crosse lakes with English river. On its S side is a fort of the same name.

**METIDJA**, a large plain in Algeria, stretching between the N foot of the Atlas, on the S, and the Sahel on the NW. It is about 45 m. in length; and from 18 to 24 m. in breadth. It is low, warm, damp, and fertile. The aloe, palm, cactus, and orange flourish upon it; but it is for the most part uncultivated and covered with marshes.

**METNITZ**, a town of Illyria, in the gov. and 78 m. NW of Laybach, circle and 27 m. NNW of Klagenfurt, on the r. bank of a river of the same name. Pop. 329.

**METOUBIS**, or **METUBIS**, a town of Lower Egypt, in the prov. and 11 m. SE of Rosetta, on the r. bank of the principal western branch of the Nile.

**METOVOE**, a town of Russia in Europe, in the gov. and 48 m. SSE of Kharkov, district and 24 m. SE of Zmür, on the r. bank of the Donetz.

**METRAFO**, a mud fort in Sinde, 26 m. SE of Roree.

**METRAMO**, a river of Naples, in the prov. of Calabria-Ultra, which flows into the bay of Gioia.

**METROPOLI**, a town of Candia, on the l. bank of the Metropolitanos, 20 m. S of Candia. In its vicinity are the ruins of the ancient *Gortyna*.

**METROPOLITANOS**, a river of Turkey in Europe, in the island of Candia, which descends from the S side of Mount Psiloriti, bathes the ruins of Gortyna, and, after a course of 12 m., throws itself into the Messara, on the r. bank, 9 m. above the entrance of that river into the Mediterranean.

**METROVITZA**, a town of Turkey in Europe, in the sanj. of Scutari, district and 18 m. NW of Pristina, on the r. bank of the Ibar or Metrovitza, which is here crossed by a moveable plank. It consists of about 450 houses. The castle of M., about 13 m. distant from the town, on a steep hill, at an alt. of

1,024 ft. above the level of the river, is now in a ruinous condition.

**METSCHIGMEN BAY**, an indentation of the NE coast of Russia in Asia, in the country of the Tchuktchi, to the S of St. Lawrence bay.

**METSCHIN**, a town of Bohemia, in the circle and 9 m. NE of Klattau, and 20 m. S of Pilsen.

**METSEKHAT**, a marche of Hungary, in the NW part of the comitat of Baranya. Its chief place is Racz-kozar.

**METT**, a village of Switzerland, in the canton and 18 m. NW of Berne, bail. and 3 m. NE of Nidau. Pop. 694. It has some Roman antiquities.

**METTAU**, a circle of Switzerland, in the cant. of Argau, consisting of a valley of the same name, in the district of Laufenburg. The valley extends to the base of the Jura, and is noted for its petrifications. It contains a village of the same name, with a pop. of 378.

**METTE**, an island in the bay of Aden, near the coast of the Somali territory, and about 30 m. W of the village of Aden.

**METTECOVEN**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Limburg, and arrond. of Tongres. Pop. 181.

**METTET**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. and arrond. of Namur. Pop. of dep. 2,188; of com. 480.

**METTINGHAM**, a parish of Suffolk, 2 m. E of Bungay, on the Wavenay. Area 1,386 acres. Pop. in 1881, 406; in 1851, 382.

**METTMAN**. See **MEDMAN**.

**METTMENSTETTEN**, a town of Switzerland, in the cant. of Zurich, and amt of Knöna. Pop. 1,450 Protestants.

**METTON**, a parish in Norfolk, 3 m. S by E of Cromer. Area 660 acres. Pop. in 1851, 77.

**METRAY**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Indre-et-Loire, cant. and 5 m. N of Tours, on the r. bank of a small affluent of the Loire. Pop. 1,212. It has an establishment for juvenile offenders which has gained a European celebrity. The institution or colony itself consists of some 14 buildings in the Swiss style, ranged on each side of a handsome church, school, and offices, so as to form three sides of a square. The lower floors of each are workshops, the upper ones mess-rooms and dormitories. The constitution of the colony is essentially parental. Each of these houses is inhabited by a family consisting of about 40 members, with a *chef-de-famille*, a *sous-chef*, and a *chef-d'atelier*. Many of these establishments are supported separately by various municipalities, upon the condition that each year the directors take a certain number of boys from the local prisons as colonists. The habitations thus supported are inscribed in letters with the name of the town which supports it; as 'Orleans,' 'Dijon,' 'Strasbourg,' &c. One, if not more, of the houses is supported solely by private individuals, whose name it bears. A French nobleman, besides supporting a whole house and family, built at his own expense the church, which is capable of accommodating 1,000 sitters. From the commencement of the experiment in 1840, to July 1848, the number of children received into the colony has been 267. Of the 373 who have left the establishment, 29 have relapsed into crime; 19 have conducted themselves tolerably well, 5 have escaped observation, and 320 have remained irreproachable in respectable stations in life: in other words, that number have no longer injured society with their crimes, or burdened the state with the expense of keeping them in prison. Their reform has been effected at a cost, it appears, of only 54 francs per head more per annum than it costs the government to support young criminals in

prison,—not for so short a period as it takes to reform them, but in most cases during about one-half of their lives. "Thus, then," exclaims M. Paul Houet, "for 1 franc 17 centimes per day the state furnishes a permanent recruiting staff of sharpers, thieves, and assassins, while for 3 sous per diem more, we have already (referring to the year 1847) presented to society 369 honest young men, 369 useful citizens." It seems that in the central prisons each *détenu* costs 426 fr. 95 c. a year; while each of the M. colonists is reformed and maintained for 480 fr. per annum, of which the government contributes no more than 160 fr. exclusive of his earnings. Up to the 1st of January 1850, the total number of children received was 1,184, of whom 144 arrived in 1849; and 528 had left, of whom 450 were leading irreproachable lives.

**METUALIS**, or **MUTUALIA**, a people of Turkey in Asia, who inhabit the valley between the chains of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, in the NE part of the pash. of Acre. They consist of about 500 families; and are governed by sheiks chosen by themselves, but tributary to the pasha of Acre. The cavalry of the M. have rendered them formidable antagonists to the Turks. The name *Metualis* is derived from *Metual*, a Saracen prince, who contributed powerfully to the annihilation of the ancient religion of the Persians, and to its substitution by that of Mahomet of the Sunnite sect.

**METWAY** (PORT), a port on the SE coast of Nova Scotia, between the Lunenburg and Queen's counties, 18 m. SW of Lunenburg, and 15 m. NE of Liverpool. It is safe and capacious, and has a depth of from 5 to 14 fath. A long chain of islets and rocks forms its defence on the E. Its entrance is on the S, and is easy of ingress. A river of the same name runs into the NW extremity of the harbour.

**METZ**, a fortified town of France, cap. of the dep. of the Moselle, situated 80 m. WNW of Strasburg, and 180 m. ENE of Paris, in N lat. 49° 7' E long. 6° 10', at the confluence of the Seille and Moselle, partly on an eminence, and partly in a hollow. As a military depot, M. is accounted one of the principal in France, being surrounded by ramparts, and defended by a number of bastions and other works. The rivers likewise add to the strength of M. The Moselle flows along its NW side, in two parallel channels, in a clear and rapid stream. The space between them is occupied by a part of the town. The Seille, a much less considerable stream, flows through the SE quarter. The circumf. of the town and fortifications together is between 3 and 4 m. Two quarters, viz., the E and N, are insulated by intersections of the rivers; and the latter are bordered in some parts with quays, and crossed by a number of small bridges. Some of the streets are tolerably straight and wide. The principal public squares are the Place d'Armes, near the centre of the town, the Place de la Comédie, on a spot insulated by the Moselle, and the Place Metzelle, on the ramparts. The esplanade, planted with trees, and separating the town from the old citadel, affords a noble promenade. M., having been the seat of a parliament, a military governor, a bishop, and other great officers, contains several good public buildings. The governor's residence, situated on the esplanade, to the E of the citadel, is a fine edifice. In front of it, a square planted with trees extends to the river, where it is terminated by a terrace. The cathedral, a vast pile, situated almost in the centre of the town, and forming one of the sides of the small square called the Place d'Armes, is said to have existed so far back as the 9th cent. The other public buildings are the theatre, the hotel-de-ville, the residence of the intendant, a large military hospital, and a number of churches and religious houses. Here are likewise extensive barracks. For education, the chief establishments are a college or provincial school, with 206 pupils in 1842, a central Rabbinical school, and an artillery and engineers'

school. The latter establishment is the principal school of military engineering in France, and has a library of 10,000 vols. A government gunpowder manufactory, and a cannon-foundry, exist here. The public library is said to contain 30,000 vols. It is the see of a bishop, and the seat of a Calvinist consistory.—The pop. in 1789 was 46,332; in 1841, 39,767; in 1846, 42,976.—The manufactures of M. comprise cutlery, cotton, linen, muslin, gauze, fustian, chintz, calico, and different kinds of coarse woollens; also paper, beet-root sugar, starch, hair-powder, artificial flowers, musical instruments, sweetmeats, and liquors. The leather-trade employs a number of tanning-yards; and the neighbourhood affords the means of a traffic in corn, wine, brandy, and vinegar. The horses reared in the pastures of Lorraine are sold here in great numbers,—a traffic chiefly in the hands of the Jews, who occupy a separate quarter in the town.—M. was known to the Romans by the names of *Divodurum* and *Metis*; in the Middle ages it bore the name of *Mediomatricum*. In the 6th cent. it became the metropolis of the kingdom of Austrasia, and at a subsequent period a free city of the empire. It long formed a subject of contention between France and Germany. In 1552, when threatened by Charles V., the king of France declared himself its protector, and placed in it a garrison under the duke of Guise. A siege took place; the defence was conducted with skill and courage; and after reiterated attempts, the Germans were obliged to retire. M. continued under the protection of France, and was finally ceded to that power at the peace of Westphalia, in 1648. The railway from Paris to Strasburg has a branch to M.

The arrond. of M., comprising the 7 cant. of Boulay, Faulquemont, Gorze, M., Pange, Verny, and Vigy, has an area of 160,673 hect. Pop. in 1841, 146,733. The cant. comprises 29 coms. Pop. in 1841, 56,584.

**METZ** (DES), a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainaut, dep. of Fontaine-l'Évêque. Pop. 128.

**METZ-LE-COMTE**, a town of France, in the dep. of the Nièvre, cant. and 3 m. NE of Tannay, and 8 m. SW of Clamecy, on a height. Pop. 630. It formerly contained a seigniorial castle, of which now only the church remains.

**METZ-EN-COUTURE**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Pas-de-Calais, cant. and 4 m. ESE of Bertincourt, and 22 m. SE of Arras. Pop. 1,611.

**METZE-HOHE**, a summit of the range of the Fichtelgebirge, in Bavaria, in the circle of Upper Franconia.

**METZERAI**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Upper Rhine, cant. and 4 m. SW of Munster, and 15 m. SW of Colmar, on the Fecht. Pop. 1,340. It contains a rich mine of antimony.

**METZERWISSE**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Moselle, and arrond. of Thionville. The cant. comprises 24 com. Pop. in 1831, 16,579; in 1841, 14,997.—The town is 8 m. SE of Thionville, and 16 m. N of Metz. Pop. 837. It has several breweries and extensive lime-kilns.

**METZINGEN**, or **MEZINGEN**, a town of Württemberg, in the circle of the Schwarzwald, bail. and 7 m. WNW of Urach, on the Enns. Pop. in 1840, 4,241. It has extensive manufactories of cloth and other woollen fabrics, calico, hosiery, leather, and paper; and carries on a considerable trade in grain, cattle, and horses.

**MEU**, a river of France, which has its source on the S side of the hill of Menez, in the dep. of the Cotes-du-Nord, and 14 m. ENE of Loudiac; flows into the dep. of the Ille-et-Vilaine; and joins the Vilaine on the r. bank, 3 m. above Pontrean; and



after a course, in a generally ESE direction, of about 54 m. Montfort is the chief town on its banks.

**MEUDON**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Oise, cant. and 1½ m. S of Sevres, and 6 m. W of Paris. Pop. in 1841, 3,174. The town is adorned with a great many handsome villas. It has a castle built by Louis XIV. It is situated on a height commanding a view of the Seine, Paris, &c., and has a fine terrace in front. The park is small, and well-planted. The fine castle built in the 15th cent. by Cardinal Lorraine was demolished in 1804. It has extensive glass and bottle-works, manufactories of hardware and of whiting, bleacheries, and numerous lime-kilns.

**MEUDT**, an amt or bail, and town of the duchy of Nassau. The bail, which is situated in the W part of the duchy, contains 11,141 inhabitants.—The town is 5 m. NNE of Montabaur, and 35 m. NW of Wiesbaden. Pop. 602.

**MEUGE**, a river of France, which has its source in the dep. of the Drome, and cant. of Sederon; passes near La Chappe; enters the dep. of the Upper Alps; and after a course of about 24 m. in a generally E direction, joins the Buech, on the r. bank, between Lagrange and Ribiers.

**MEULAN**, or **MEULENT**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Seine-et-Oise, and arrond. of Versailles. The cant. comprises 20 com. Pop. in 1831, 12,435; in 1841, 12,271.—The town is 24 m. NW of Paris, and 19 m. NNE of Versailles. Pop. in 1841, 3,174. It is built partly on the side of a hill, on which it rises amphitheatrically, on the r. bank of the Seine, and partly on an island of that river. The latter part is distinguished as the Fort, and is connected with the land by a long bridge, commanding a beautiful view of the river. M. generally is well-built, and contains some handsome houses, and an hospital. It has manufactories of hosiery, cards, cordage, and leather, several bleacheries, and numerous flour-mills; and carries on a considerable trade in grain, wool, and rags. Gypsum is extensively wrought in the locality. M., which was formerly fortified, was added to the crown of France under Henry II. It was taken by the English in 1346, by Duguesclin in 1363, and in 1417 by the duke of Burgundy. During the civil wars it made an effectual resistance to the duke of Mayenne, and obliged him to raise the siege.

**MEULEBEKE**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of W. Flanders, arrond. and 11 m. N of Courtrai. Pop. of dep. 9,264; of village 9,164. It has manufactories of linen and cotton fabrics, and lace; and several oil-mills and breweries.

**MEULENACKER**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of W. Flanders, and dep. of Ruysselede. Pop. 739.

**MEULENBERG**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, and dep. of Craybeke. Pop. 239.

**MEULENDYK**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, and dep. of Borsbeke. Pop. 119.

**MEULEN-EYNDE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, and dep. of Desteldonk. Pop. 661.

**MEULENHOEK**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, and dep. of Vracene. Pop. 303.

**MEULENTEDE**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of W. Flanders, and dep. of Oostcamp. Pop. 120.

**MEULENSTRÆT**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of E. Flanders, and dep. of Ervetegein. Pop. 300.

**MEULLES**, a commune of France, in the dep. of Calvados, cant. and 5 m. SW of Orbec. Pop. 1,180.

**MEUNES**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Loir-et-Cher, cant. and 7 m. E of St. Aignan, near the Fouzon and the Cher. Pop. 965.

**MEUNG-SUR-LOIRE**, **MEUN**, or **MEHUN**, a canton, commune, and town of France, in the dep. of the Loiret, and arrond. of Orleans. The cant. comprises 8 coms. Pop. in 1831, 10,149; in 1841, 10,318. The town is 12 m. SW of Orleans, pleasantly situated on the r. bank of the Loire, and is well-built. Pop. in 1841, 4,515. It has manufactories of cloth, blankets, felt, and iron-ware; numerous flour, tan, and fulling-mills; extensive tanneries and bleacheries; and several gypsum and lime-kilns. The trade, which is considerable, consists chiefly in grain, flour, cattle, horses, leather, wine—the produce of the locality—and vinegar. Bees are extensively reared in the environs, and in the vicinity are several quarries of freestone. This town was taken repeatedly by the English and the Huguenots. Its castle was rebuilt in the reign of Louis-le-Gros.

**MEURO**, a village of Prussia, in Saxony, in the reg. of Merseburg, to the NW of Schneidenburg. Pop. 210.

**MEURS**, or **Möns**, a town of Prussia, in the prov. of the Rhine, reg. and 36 m. SE of Düsseldorf, and circle of Geldern, on the r. bank of the Eider. Pop. 2,860. It is regularly built, and contains a considerable number of handsome houses, two market-places, one of which is planted with lime-trees, several churches, a gymnasium, and a normal school. It has manufactories of silk, woollen, and cotton fabrics, a cotton spinning-mill, numerous distilleries, a tannery, and a tile-work. This town was formerly the cap. of a small principality of the same name. Its fortifications were destroyed in 1764.

**MEURSAC**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Charente-Inferieure, and cant. of Cozes, 12 m. SW of Saintes. Pop. 1,590. It has a tannery, and carries on a considerable trade in cattle.

**MEURSANGE**, a town of France, in the dep. of the Cote-d'Or, cant. and 6 m. ESE of Beaune, on the r. bank of the Bouzeoise. Pop. 609.

**MEURSAULT**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Cote-d'Or, cant. and 5 m. SW of Beaune, on a hill, in a district noted for its wine. Pop. in 1841, 2,107.

**MEURTHE**, a river of France, formed on the western flank of the chain of the Vosges, in the dep. of that name, and 3 m. SE of St. Diey, by the junction of two streams, one of which descends from the Montabern, and the other from the mountain of Bonhomme. Running in a NW direction, it passes St. Diey and Raon l'Etape; enters the dep. to which it gives its name; passes Bacarat near Luneville and Nancy; and, after a total course of about 93 m., joins the Moselle near Frouard, and 8 m. from the town of Nancy. It is navigable as far as the latter town, but the volume of its waters is liable to frequent variation, as the melting of the snow in the Vosges, or even a few days of rain, swells them to overflowing. Timber and faggots are its chief articles of transit. Its principal affluents are the Vezouze and Sanon on the r., and the Mortagne on the l.

**MEURTHE**, a department in the N of France; bounded on the N by the dep. of the Moselle; on the E by that of the Lower Rhine, from which it is separated by the Vosges; on the S by the dep. of the Vosges; and on the W by that of the Meuse. It comprises an area of 602,799 hect., and extends between 48° 20' and 49° 3' N lat., and between 5° 44' and 7° 16' E long. Pop. in 1801, 338,115; in 1821, 379,985; in 1831, 415,565; in 1841, 444,603; in 1851, 450,423. It was organized in 1790, from parts of Lorraine Proper and Toulous; and comprises 5 arrondissements, viz.: Chateau-Salins, Luneville, Nancy, Sarrebourg, and Toul, which are subdivided into 29 cantons, and 714 communes. Its cap. is Nancy. It belongs, in its entire extent, to the basin of the

Rhine; and is watered by the Moselle, with its affluents the Madon, the Meurthe, the Vezouze, the Seille, and the Sarre, with the Nied. On the W it is intersected by several small affluents of the Meuse; and on the E by the Zorn, an affluent of the Rhine. It contains also several large ponds, the principal of which are those of Lindre, Gondrexange, and Stock. It is traversed on the E by the chain of the Vosges; and on the W by the ridge which separates the valleys of the Meuse and Moselle; and it is generally mountainous. The valleys are well-watered, and the hills by which they are enclosed are covered with vines or wood. The valleys of the Vosges are generally narrow, extremely picturesque, and contain several lakes. The soil, which rests on a base of limestone or gypsum, is extremely fertile. In 1839, it was estimated that of the 587,657 hect. of arable land in this dep., 160,489 were in wheat and other grain; 22,678 in potatoes; 3,802 in legumes; 16,054 in vines; 5,202 in gardens; 460 in beet-root; 298 in hops; 2,783 in hemp; 567 in flax; 86,954 in meadows; 17,705 in pasture or heath; 56,961 fallow; 187,367 in wood; and 6,345 in orchards, nurseries, and osieries. Its best wines are those of Thiancourt, Brailly, and Salival; but none of them rank above the class of *vins ordinaires*, and the greater quantity is consumed in the dep. A species of plum, locally named *coëche*, and the apricot, are extensively cultivated in the orchards; and the former, in a dried state, forms an important article of trade. The breeds of both horses and cattle are indifferent in quality. The number of horses in 1839 was estimated at 72,255; of asses, 437; of cattle, 91,560; of sheep, 186,165; pigs, 108,962; goats, 11,835. Poultry is also reared in great quantities, and in some localities bees. Wolves, foxes, wild boars, and squirrels, are common in the forests, and small game is abundant. Trout and cray-fish are found in great quantities in the rivers. Iron exists in various forms, but nowhere in sufficient quantity to be effectively wrought. Freestone, limestone, and gypsum are abundant; and in the vicinity of Nancy are quarries of fine marble and of alabaster. The mineral resources of this dep., however, consist chiefly in its salt-mines and springs. These—which are the most important in France—are chiefly in the basin of the Sielle, and the most abundant are at Dieuze, Chateau-Salins, and Moyenvic.—The principal industrial establishments in the dep. are the crystal and glass manufactories of Baccarat and Saint-Quirin, the chemical works of Dieuze, and the noted brocade establishments of which Nancy is the seat and centre. There are, besides, numerous manufactories of china, earthenware and pottery, cotton-spinning and paper-mills, manufactories of linen and cotton fabrics, of cloth, of cloaks, and of printing-types; tanneries, distilleries of brandy and liqueurs, manufactories of sugar from beet-root, preserves, confits, &c., and breweries. The trade consists chiefly in timber, salt, grain, wine, brandy, salt meat, and articles of local manufacture.—The educational establishments of the dep. consisted in 1842 of the college at Nancy, and 6 communal colleges, 15 academies, a normal, 5 superior, and 1,106 elementary schools.—This district of France, which in ancient times was inhabited by the *Leuci* and *Mediomatrici*, was comprised in *Belgia Prima*. It was conquered about the beginning of the 5th cent. by the Merovingians, and afterwards by Glorvis. At a later period it belonged to the kingdom of Lorraine, and after the death of Louis, the last king of Lorraine, was conjoined with the Germanic empire. It was ultimately, in conjunction with the duchy of Lorraine, ceded to France in 1738.

MEUSE, MAAS, MAZE, or MAÏS, a river which has its source in the S part of the French dep. of

Haute-Marne, in the cant. and 3 m. S of Montigny, and 12 m. NE of Langres. It is formed by the junction of two streams, which, descending from the Monts-de-Faucille, a prolongation of the Vosges, traverse the valleys of Recourt and Avrecourt, and unite at Fort-Fillieres near the castle and village of Meuse. The united stream, taking the name of Meuse, pursues its course through the NW part of the dep. of the Vosges; runs underground a distance of 5 m. between Bazoilles and Noncourt; traverses in its entire length the dep. of the same name; waters the E part of that of the Ardennes, and a little below Givet enters Belgium. Proceeding in a generally NNE direction, it flows through the Belgian provs. of Namur, Liege, and Limburg; and entering Holland, and bending W along the frontier of N. Brabant, it separates that prov. from the provs. of Gelderland and S. Holland. A little below Gorinchem, it divides into two arms, the more northerly of which enters the prov. of S. Holland, takes at first the name of Merwede, and subdivides at Dort into two principal branches, of which the more northerly is called the Maas or Meuse, and the southerly the Oude-Maas or Old Meuse. These two branches re-unite near the E point of the island of Rozenburg, and form a large estuary, the embouchure properly so called of the Maas,—which enters the North sea between the NW extremity of the island of Voorne and the tongue of land terminating in Hoek-van-Holland. The southern arm of the Maas, immediately on leaving Gorinchem, divides in the Biesbosch into numerous streams. On their reunion they take the name of Hollands-Diep, and separate the prov. of Brabant from that of Holland. At Willemstadt the stream again bifurks, sending off one branch under the name first of Haring-Vliet and afterwards that of Flakkee, between the islands of Overflakkee and Beyerland, in the SW part of the prov. of Holland, and which flows by a wide mouth into the sea between the W extremity of the island of Voorne and the N coast of that of Goeree. The other and more southerly branch,—bearing successively the appellations of Volke-Rak, Krammer, and Gravelingen,—runs between the provinces of Holland and Zealand, sends towards the S an offset to the Eastern Scheldt, and enters the sea between the W point of Goeree and the NW coast of the island of Schouwen. The total course of the M. is estimated at about 600 m., of which 276 m. are within the confines of France, and in a generally NNW direction. In High Belgium, its direction is chiefly NE; and in Holland, W. Its principal affluents are in France the Mouzon, Vair, Chiers, and Semoy, on the r.; and on the l. the Bar. In Belgium it receives on the r. the Lesse, Ourthe, Roer, and Niers; and on the l. the Sambre and Meuseigne. In Holland it receives the Waal and Leek, the two largest arms of the Rhine, and also the lower Yssel, another branch of that river.—The basin of the M. is enclosed on the S by the Fancilles mountains, on the E by those of the Moselle and of the E. Ardennes, and on the W by the mountains of Argonne and of the W. Ardennes. Its greatest breadth, lying between the sources of the Ourthe and Sambre, does not exceed 120 m. It is connected with the basin of the Scheldt on the W, and with that of the Rhine on the E, by the great Canal du-Nord, which passes Venlo, and of which a branch named Rigole-de-Maestricht lies entirely within the basin of the M. This river is navigable as far as Verdun in France, a distance of 468 m. The valley through which it flows in the upper part of its course is extremely picturesque, sometimes contracting into narrow rocky gorges, and in other parts expanding into fine slopes covered with grass or wood and everywhere studded

with villages. The principal towns which it bathes are Neufchâteau, Saint-Mihiel, Verdun, Stenay, Sedan, Mézières, Charleville, and Givet, in France; Dinant, Namur, Huy, Liège, Maestricht, Raremonde, and Venlo, in Belgium; and in Holland, Grave, Gorcum, or Gorinchem, Dordrecht, Rotterdam, Willemstad, and Hillevoetsluis. Its articles of transit consist chiefly in grain, timber, marble, slate, iron, coal, stone, and wool. See articles RHINE and WAAL.

**MEUSE**, a department in the NE of France; bounded on the NW by the dep. of the Ardennes; on the NE by Belgium and the dep. of the Moselle, from the latter of which it is separated by the Othman; on the E by the dep. of the Meurthe; on the S by those of the Vosges and Upper Marne; and on the W by the dep. of the Marne. It lies between 48° 23' and 49° 35' N lat., and between 4° 54' and 5° 57' E long.; and comprises an area of 602,555 hect. Pop. in 1801, 269,522; in 1821, 291,385; in 1831, 314,588; and in 1851, 328,657. — This dep. is intersected from S to N by two ranges of hills which detach themselves from the plateau of Langres, enclose the basin of the Meuse, separating it from that of the Seine on the W, and on the E from the basin of the Rhine, and uniting with the plateaux of the Ardennes and Luxembourg. Its culminating point does not exceed 1,650 ft. Besides the Meuse, by which the dep. is watered in its entire length, it contains the Chiers, an affluent of the M.; in the E the Orne, and several minor affluents of the Moselle; and in the W the Marne, the Ormain, a tributary of the Marne, with the Saulx and Chée, and the Aisne, with its affluents the Aire and Biesme. The soil of the plains is poor and stony; but the valleys and hills are covered with the finest vegetation. The climate is cold and damp, but not insalubrious. The extent of arable land in the dep., in 1839, was estimated at 597,949 hect. Of these, at the same period, 276,077 were in wheat and other grain; 15,176 in potatoes; 2,188 in legumes; 164 in beet-root; 12,847 in vineyards; 4,436 in gardens; 2,546 in hemp; 675 in flax; 62,551 in meadows; 18,958 in heath and pasture; 72,390 fallow; 171,423 in wood; and 8,518 in orchards, nurseries, and osieries. Horses of a small breed, cattle, and other domestic animals, are reared, especially in the valley of the Meuse, in great numbers. In 1839, their numbers respectively were estimated at 63,432 horses, 348 mules, 431 asses, 96,196 cattle, 213,547 sheep, 98,916 pigs, and 7,215 goats. Poultry is also extensively reared, and in some localities bees. The forests contain wild boars and squirrels, and abound with small game. The rivers and lakes afford large quantities of pike, roach, perch, trout, and cray-fish. Iron is found in abundance in the mountains, and there are numerous quarries of freestone, slate, limestone, gypsum, potters' clay, and marl. The number of iron-works in 1839 was 40, and the number of hands employed in them 690. Their total produce amounted at the same period to 197,491 quintals of cast-iron, and 88,554 quintals of malleable iron. The principal industrial establishments in the dep. are its numerous paper-mills, glass-works, china and pottery manufactories, tile-works, cotton spinning-mills, cotton and woollen factories, and tanneries. It has also extensive manufactories of wood-ware, hosiery, lace, comfits, sugar from beet-root, cheese, and salt meat; and several breweries and distilleries. The trade consists chiefly in wine, grain, oil, planks, timber, iron, calico, pepper, and salt meat. The practice common in some parts of France, of a certain number of the inhabitants periodically engaging themselves as hawkers, tinkers, &c., prevails to a considerable extent in this dep. — The educational establishments in this dep. in 1840 consisted of 1 normal and 792 communal schools, and 5 colleges. The

administrative divisions in 1841 consisted of 4 arronds., viz.: Bar-le-Duc, Commercy, Montmédy, and Verdun; 28 cant., and 588 coms. The chief town is Bar-le-Duc. This portion of France was anciently inhabited by the Verodunenses. It was definitively ceded to France in 1648. It was formerly comprised in Lorraine and Champagne.

**MEUSEGHEM**, a commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Brabant, dep. of Wolverthem. Pop. 190.

**MEUSELBACH**, a village of the principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, near the Schwarz, 6 m. S of Königsee. Pop. 1,350. It has several oil-mills.

**MEUSELWITZ**, a market-town of the duchy of Saxe-Altenburg, circle and 7 m. NW of Altenburg, on the Schand. Pop. 1,527. It has a castle, belonging to the house of Seckendorf, and possesses several manufactories of linen, and dye-works.

**MEUSNES**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Loir-et-Cher, and cant. of Saint-Aignan, 36 m. S of Blois. Pop. 1,055. It affords good wine, and has quarries of silex.

**MEUWEN**, a department of Belgium, in the prov. of Limburg, and arrond. of Tongres. Pop. of dep. 951; of com. 170.

**MEUX**, a township in the p. of Waghien, E. R. of Yorkshire, 4½ m. N of Beverley. Area 1,390 acres. Pop. 95.

**MEUX**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. and arrond. of Namur. Pop. of dep. 1,168; of com. 1,138.

**MEUX (Le)**, a commune and town of France, in the dep. of the Oise, cant. and 7 m. SE of Estrées-St.-Denis, and near the r. bank of the Oise. Pop. 1,030.

**MEUZAC**, or **MEUZAT**, a commune of France, in the dep. of the Haute-Vienne, cant. and 6 m. SSW of Saint-Germain-les-Belles. Pop. 1,032. It has several iron-works.

**MEVAGH**, a parish in co. Donegal, 7 m. NW of Millford. Area 21,026 acres. Pop. in 1851, 4,961.

**MEVAGISSEY**, a parish of Cornwall, 5½ m. ESE of Grampond, on the coast. Area 1,344 acres. Pop. in 1831, 2,169; in 1851, 2,022.

**MEVERGNIES**, a department and commune of Belgium, in the prov. of Hainault, and arrond. of Mons. Pop. of dep. 730; of com. 467.

**MEVES**, an ancient town of France, in the dep. of the Nièvre, cant. and 4 m. SSE of Pouilly, on the r. bank of the Loire, at the junction of the Mason. Pop. 726. It has several iron-works, and carries on a considerable trade in wine.

**MEVOUILLON**, a village of France, in the dep. of the Drome, cant. and 5 m. NW of Séderon. Pop. 607. It had a fortress, which was destroyed by order of Louis XIV., in 1684.

**MEVRES**. See **MESVRES**.

**MEW ISLAND**. See **COPELAND ISLANDS**.

**MEWAN (SAINT)**, a parish in Cornwall, 1 m. W by S of St. Austell. Area 2,632 acres. Pop. 1,239.

**MEWAR**, a large principality of Hindostan, in the Rajput territory, in the S part of the prov. of Ajmir, between the parallels of 24° and 26° N. It is generally mountainous, and may be regarded as the central portion of the great table-land of Hindostan. The principal river by which it is watered is the Banas, an affluent of the Chambul; but it gives rise also to the Mahe, which flows to the opposite coast. It contains three forts, viz.: Chittore or Chittur, its ancient capital, Combhore or Komalmer, and Mandelgarh. Its chief town is Odipur. The principal productions of the district are grain, cotton, sugar, and tobacco. Cotton fabrics and arms are its chief articles of manufacture. The revenue of the rana or king is £76,000. It is subdivided into 24 districts.





## I. VICEROYALTY OF MEXICO PROPER.

Intendancies.	Sq. leagues.	Sq. m.
1. Mexico,	5,927	45,440
2. La-Puebla,	2,696	20,662.2
3. La-Veracruz,	4,141	31,747.1
4. Oaxaca,	4,447	34,093.1
5. Merida,	5,977	45,823.1
6. Valladolid,	3,446	25,486
7. Guadalupe,	9,612	74,260.2
8. Zacatecas,	2,355	18,054.2
9. Guanajuato,	911	6,984
10. San-Luis-Potosi, S part,	2,357	18,266.1
10 Intendancies,	41,869	320,723

## II. WESTERN INTERNAL PROVINCES.

1. Sonora,	19,143	146,764
2. Durango,	16,873	129,426
3. New Mexico,	5,709	43,769
4. Californias, (New 2,125) (Old 7,295),	9,420	72,403
	51,145	392,452

## III. EASTERN INTERNAL PROVINCES.

1. Cohahuila,	6,702	52,392
2. Texas,	10,948	83,962
3. Santander,	5,193	39,816
4. New Leon,	2,621	20,094
	25,464	196,264

*Existing divisions.*] The republic of M. was divided by the constitution of 1824 into 19 states, 4 territories, and the federal district; but a decree of 1835 provided for a new division of the country into departments. Texas, as already noticed, published a formal declaration of independence in March 1836; Yucatan has also asserted its independence; and the treaty of 1848, with the cession of California, and New Mexico, has further curtailed its dominions. The following table was drawn up for the supreme government in 1839:

States.	Area in sq. m.	Pop.
1. a. Mexico,	25,450	1,389,520
b. Federal district,	100	
2. Jalisco or Jalisco,	73,000	679,311
3. Puebla,	18,440	661,992
4. Guanajuato or Guanajuato,	8,050	512,606
5. Oaxaca or Oajaca,	32,630	500,278
6. Michoacan or Michoacan,	22,468	497,006
7. San-Luis-De-Potosi,	13,000	321,840
8. Zacatecas,	19,950	273,575
9. Vera Cruz or Veracruz,	27,660	254,380
10. Durango,	54,500	162,618
11. Chihuahua,	107,500	147,600
12. Sinaloa or Chinaloa,	64,700	147,000
13. Chiapas or Chiapa,	18,750	141,206
14. Queretaro,	7,500	120,560
15. Nuevo Leon,	21,000	101,108
16. Tamaulipas,	33,100	100,068
17. Coahuila,	93,600	73,560
18. Tabasco,	11,676	63,580
19. Aguas Calientes, [a newly-organized state, the area of which is comprised in that of Zacatecas, Jalisco, and Guanajuato,]		62,698
20. Sonora,	200,000	124,000
21. Baja California,	57,029	33,439

The area and population of the recently discovered portions was stated in the same document to be as follows:

Yucatan,	79,500	580,948
Alta California,	376,354	15,000
Nuevo Mexico,	200,000	57,026

*Physical features.*] We are yet profoundly ignorant of by far the greatest part of the Mexican interior. We know little of the interior of Guatemala; almost nothing of Yucatan; and little more of the northern part of Mexico Proper, and of the greater part of New Mexico. Humboldt traversed but a small portion of this immense surface; and he confesses that beyond the parallel of 21° N he knew nothing but from report of the internal configuration of the surface. The physical aspect of New Spain—including in that term Guatemala—from the 16th to the 26th degree of N lat., is a high table-land, bearing some

resemblance in this respect to the southern peninsula of India. Beyond the 26th parallel, the land is said to decline towards New Mexico, and the Rio-del-Norte on the N, and towards the Rio-Colorado of California on the NW; and the town of Saltillo, 180 m. of horizontal distance from Durango, to the NE, is situated on the eastern verge of the high table-land. This high level, therefore, is upwards of 1,000 m. in length from SE to NW, and probably extends much farther, while it insensibly declines in level. The breadth expands as the table-land extends to the NW; under the parallel of 26° its width from E to W is about 400 m. In the parallel of 19° N, or that of the city of Mexico, the breadth of this high level, according to Humboldt's vertical projection of the country from Vera Cruz to Acapulco, is 60 marine leagues, or 210 m., between the opposite points of Guchilaque and Las-Vigas,—the former being 8,000 ft., and the latter 7,814 ft. above the level of the sea; and the lowest place in this intervening tract is the city of Puebla-de-los-Angeles, which is 7,198 ft. above the ocean-level. The highest point between Mexico and Vera Cruz occurs 30 m. E of the former city, and is 10,540 ft. above sea-level. The plain of Toluca to the SW of Mexico, is 8,818 ft. above the level of the sea; and the Cross of the Marquis, 20 m. S of Mexico, 9,842 ft. The height of the tract from Mexico to Guanajuato, a direct distance of 48 geog. leagues, or 166 m. NW, is nearly similar; the lowest place in Humboldt's vertical section of this tract lying 5,766 ft. above the level of the sea, and the highest 8,818 ft. The table-land expands so much from Oaxaca to Durango, SE and NW along the shores of the Pacific, that the central plain preserves an elevation of 6,560 ft. for more than 180 m. W of Mexico; but after leaving the valley of Mexico towards the SSW, or the city of Acapulco, it never again attains this elevation. The descent is much more gradual towards Acapulco than towards Vera Cruz. Going from Mexico to Vera Cruz, the traveller has to traverse a space of 207 m. ere he arrive at a valley whose bottom is less than 3,280 ft. above the level of the sea, and where oaks cease to grow; whereas, on the Acapulco road, the distance is only about 60 m. From El Manzanillo, on the eastern crest of the table-land, to Vera Cruz, the descent is rapid and laborious, being 7,921 ft. in the space of 87 m. The difficulty of communication between the interior and the opposite coasts will long prevent M. from becoming a great commercial or maritime power. But however difficult the communications are between the table-land and the sea-coasts, the case is otherwise on the table-land itself. Its declivity is so gentle, and so little interrupted by valleys, that as far as Durango in New Mexico, 500 m. NNW of the city of Mexico, the surface has a constant elevation of from 5,576 ft. to 8,856 ft. above the sea. Plains of great extent, but of uniform surface, are here so approximated to one another that they form but a single plain on the lengthened ridge of the Mexican cordillera. The declination towards the N is so gentle as not to be perceived; and carriages roll with comparative ease along the vast elevated table-land, as far as Santa-Fé in New Mexico, a distance of at least 1,500 m. The eastern declivity of the cordillera is a continual and rapid descent; but the road to the W coast alternately ascends and descends through four remarkable longitudinal valleys.

*Mountains.*] The mountain-system of Mexico or New Spain cannot strictly be regarded as a prolongation of the Andine chain of South America. So far is this from being the case, that long before the Andes have reached the isthmus of Panama, they have dwindled into inconsiderable hillocks; and in

Veragua, the Sierra-de-Canatagua in fact runs in an opposite direction to the Andes, as if to interrupt their extension into North America. In the Mexican prov. of Oaxaca, the chain occupies the centre of the isthmus, between the sources of the Chimalapa and the Huasacualco. Of this part of the chain, the Cerro-de-Sinpaltepec is said to be so elevated that both the Atlantic and Pacific are visible from it: this extent of visual horizon would indicate an elevation of 7,700 ft. above the sea. The same spectacle is said to be enjoyed at La-Ginetta, 12 leagues from the port of Tehuantepec, on the road from Guatemala to Mexico. From  $18^{\circ}$  to  $21^{\circ}$  N lat. the cordillera stretches from S to N, and approaches the Atlantic. In the centre of the table-land, an elevated chain separates the valley of Mexico from the intendancy of Pueblo-de-Los-Angelos. Of this chain, the most elevated summits are the Popocatepetl, a volcano covered with perpetual snow, its elevation being 17,735 ft. above the level of the sea, and the Istacaci-huatl having an alt. of 15,700 ft., according to Humboldt. These are great heights: yet if we consider the elevation of their respective bases, the appearance of these mountains cannot be so majestic as that of the Alps of Switzerland or Italy; for while the latter are elevated from 12,794 to 15,419 ft. above the plains of Switzerland and Lombardy, the Popocatepetl is only 10,268 ft. above the lowest level of the valley of Mexico, and 10,537 ft. above that of Puebla-de-Los-Angelos, from which places this mountain is nearly equidistant. But the proximity of the city of Mexico to the Popocatepetl and Istacaci-huatl contributes to heighten the impression produced by these volcanic mountains,—the distance being less than one-half that of Berlin and Milan to the Alps. This, combined with the superior purity of a tropical and highly elevated atmosphere, more than compensates for their comparative inferiority of height viewed in relation to the places from which they rise. The Nevado-de-Toluca, another colossal summit, 22 m. SW of Mexico, is elevated 15,156 ft. above the level of the sea, though it is only 6,299 ft. above the plain whence it springs. The Cerro-de-Axusco, 12 m. direct distance SSW of Mexico, is 12,052 ft. of absolute height, and 4,596 ft. above the level of Tezcuco. The mean elevation of the whole range, of which these summits make a part, and which surround as with a circular wall the valley of Mexico, is according to Humboldt 9,842 ft. of absolute elevation. The eastern chain which runs N and S, along the eastern declivity of the table-land, towards the gulf of Mexico, presents the elevated summits of the Cital-tepetl, called Orizaba or Orizaba in the maps,—and of Nauheampa-tepetl, or the Cofre de Perote. The absolute height of the former is, according to Ferrer, 17,876 ft., and of the latter 12,514 ft. according to Humboldt. The former, the most majestic summit in the vicerealty of Mexico, is visible from Vera Cruz, and is the first part of the Mexican continent seen by navigators. Viewed from Xalappa, 30 m. NE in direct distance, it appears much more lofty than the Popocatepetl, as seen from Mexico and La-Puebla. From the NE part of the intendancy of Mexico, the chain assumes the name of Sierra Madre; and leaving the eastern quarter, runs NW to Guanajuato, to the N of which city it becomes of an extraordinary breadth, dividing immediately into three branches. Of these branches, the most eastern runs in the direction of Charcas and Catorce, and is lost in the prov. of New Leon. The western branch proceeds to the N of Guadalajara, and passing to the E of Colliacan and Arispe, as far N as the source of the Rio-Gila, forms in its progress the mountains of Primeria Alta, celebrated for the gold washed down their sides. This

branch is denominated the ridge of Topia by Spanish writers; and from its western side, many lateral chains stretch SW to the gulf of California. The middle branch of the Sierra Madre, which may be viewed as the central chain of the Mexican Alps, occupies the whole extent of Zacatecas, and stretches through Durango, as far as the Sierras-de-los-Mimbros to the W of the Rio-del-Norte. From thence it traverses New Mexico till it meets with the Topian ridge on the W, and on the E with a snowy ridge that commences on the E of the Rio-del-Norte, in  $31^{\circ}$  N lat., and running N, and then NW, forms the boundary in that quarter between New Mexico and Louisiana. This termination of the Sierra-Madre, in  $41^{\circ}$  N lat., divides the rivers which flow towards the Pacific from those which discharge themselves into the Atlantic ocean. From this point, where the various branches meet, they again spread out to a great breadth, under the appellation of the Stony mountains. Another snowy range extends NW and SE between the lower courses of the Colorado and Buenaventura rivers, running parallel with the E coast of the gulf of California. The Californian mountains commence near the SE point of the peninsula of that name, and run in a NW course through the middle of the peninsula, and along the coast of the Pacific, as far as the mouth of the Columbia,—an extent of more than 1,500 m. The elevation of the Sierra-Madre, beyond  $21^{\circ}$  N lat., must be great, as it enters into the region of eternal snow. The other principal heights S of  $21^{\circ}$  N lat., exclusive of those already mentioned, are the peak of Tancitaro, 10,198 ft. of absolute height,—El Jacal, 10,249 ft.—Mamanchota, 9,766 ft.—the Volcan-de-Colima, 9,286 ft.—and the Volcan-de-Jorullo, 4,267 ft. The prevailing geological feature of this mountain-system is porphyritic rock. The central plateau of Anahuac appears like an enormous porphyritic dyke, distinguished from the European porphyry by the constant presence of hornblende and the absence of quartz. Granite appears at Acapulco and in Oaxaca.

*Volcanoes.* Popocatepetl and Istacaci-huatl are usually denominated the volcanoes of La Puebla, or Mexico,—their summits being equally visible from both cities. The latter is an extinguished volcano, and no Indian tradition goes back to the time when it made its eruptions. The same is the case with the Nevado-de-Toluca, the Peak of Orizaba, and the volcano of Tuxtla in Vera Cruz. The greatest eruptions of Orizaba were between 1545 and 1666; no appearances, however, of activity have been noticed in it since the latter year. The crater of Popocatepetl is half-a-mile wide, but no eruptions of consequence have occurred in it since the time of Cortez: a mass of ashes and very dense vapours were observed, however, by Humboldt and Bonpland, to issue from this crater in January 1804. The Cofre de Perote, though presenting nothing like the appearance of a crater on its summit, yet seems to have been an ancient volcano, from the traces of currents of lava still visible on its sides. The small volcano of Tuxtla is still very active, producing frequent and violent eruptions. The last, which was very violent, took place in 1793; the roofs of the houses of Oaxaca, Vera Cruz, and Perote, were covered by it with volcanic ashes, and at Perote, distant 170 m. in a direct line, subterranean noises were heard resembling discharges of heavy artillery. The volcano of Colima frequently emits smoke and ashes. The Volcan-de-Jorullo is of very recent origin, having sprung up in 1759, in the centre of a fine plain, in the intendancy of Valladolid, more than 100 m. from any sea-coast, and 126 m. from any active volcano. See JORULLO. Earthquakes are frequent on the coast of the Pacific, and in the environs of the city of Mexico, though not attended here with such devastating effects as in Peru and Quito. All these phenomena seem to indicate the existence of an active internal fire between the parallels of  $18^{\circ}$  and  $22^{\circ}$ , which pierces from time to time through the crust of the globe, even at great distances from the sea-shore.

*Basaltic rocks.* The valley of Mexico is separated from the basin of Totonilco-el-Grande by a chain of porphyritic mountains, the highest summit of which, the peak of the Xacal, rises to an elevation of 10,249 ft. above the level of the sea. These "enormous columns of trappan porphyry," crowned with pines and oaks, are of a very picturesque character: it is from them that the ancient Mexicans obtained the *teatl*, or obsidian, of which they formed their sharp instruments. This porphyritic formation serves for base to the porous amygdaloid which surrounds the lakes of Tezcuco, Xucupango, and San-Christobal. To the NE



of the district of Real-del-Monte, it is concealed under the columnar basalt of Regla, and farther on, in the valley of Totonilco, under beds of secondary formation. The Alpine limestone, of a greyish blue, in which is the famous cavern of Dante, called 'the Pierced mountain,' appears to repose immediately on the porphyry of Moran. The basaltic rocks and cascade of Regla, situated at a distance of 25 leagues NE of Mexico, between the mines of Real-del-Monte and the thermal waters of Totonilco, form a remarkable natural curiosity; see REGLA. The prima regiosa in a bed of clay, under which is again found basalt, superposed on the porphyry of Real-del-Monte. The whole of this basaltic region is 6,500 ft. above the level of the ocean.

**Capes and Bays.]** The most prominent capes on the coasts of this extensive region are. Cape St. Lucas, the SE point of the peninsula of Old California, in  $22^{\circ} 52' 28''$  N lat., and  $110^{\circ} 45' 38''$  W long., by the corrected observation of Oltmann; and Cape Corrientes, on the western coast of the isthmus of Mexico, in  $20^{\circ} 25' 30''$  N lat., and  $105^{\circ} 34'$  W long. Cape Mendocino now belongs to California.—The chief bays or gulfs are those of Tehuantepec, and the large inland gulf of California. The former lies under the 16th parallel. Between the head of this gulf of the Pacific, into which the river Chimalapa disembogues itself, and the mouth of the Huasacualco, or Goazacualco, which discharges itself into the bay of the same name in the S part of the gulf of Mexico, is only 125 m. across the isthmus. The gulf of California is a very large inland sea, stretching 780 m. from SE to NW, or from the mouth of the El-Rosario river, in N lat.  $22^{\circ} 52'$ , to the mouth of the Rio-de Colorado, in N lat.  $32^{\circ} 50'$ . The entrance of this gulf, between Cape St. Lucas, the SE point of California, and the mouth of the El-Rosario, on the continent, is 200 m. wide; from thence, as far as N lat.  $27^{\circ}$ , the average breadth is from 120 to 150 m.; from thence to the head it seldom exceeds 60 m. The charts of this gulf as yet are sadly erroneous. See articles CALIFORNIA, and CALIFORNIA (GULF or).—The other bays are those of San Blas, San Francisco, and Acapulco, on the southern ocean; and in the gulf of Mexico, those of Tampico and Huasacualco.

**Rivers.]** Considering the extent of this country, its large rivers are not numerous. The chief river is the Rio-Bravo, or Rio-Grande-del-Norte, which, according to the large map of Lewis and Clarke's tract from the Missouri to the Pacific, rises in the great cordillera which separates the eastern from the western waters of North America, in about  $40^{\circ} 12'$  N lat., and  $111^{\circ} 30'$  W long, immediately to the W of the sources of the Big-Horn, Platte, and Arkansas, and, flowing in a generally S course, strikes the present frontier of M. in about  $32^{\circ} 30'$  N lat., and from that point flows prevailing SE, dividing Texas from the prov. of Chihuahua, the great waste of the Bolson-de-Mapimi, and the provs. of Coahuila and Tamaulipas; and falls into the gulf of Mexico, in  $25^{\circ} 55'$  N lat., and  $97^{\circ} 26'$  W long, according to Humboldt. The comparative course of the Rio-del-Norte, is nearly 1,600 m., 540 of which are to the NW of Santa Fé. See article RIO-GRANDE-DEL-NORTE. The Colorado and the Gila are now beyond the Mexican frontier.—To the S of the Rio-del-Norte, the river of Tampico, and the Rio-Blanco, discharge themselves into a common estuary; and the Rio-Alvarado, the Huasacualco, and the Tabasco with its twin-stream the Usumac, all flow into the S part of the gulf of Mexico.—The principal streams which flow into the E side of the gulf of California are the Caborca or Iguaño, the San José, the Yaqui, the Sinaloa, and the Callisican.—In Mexico Proper, the chief river is the St. Jago, which rises from a small lake 13 m. to the SW of the city of Mexico, on the W side of the mountains which bound the valley of Tenochtitlan. Running to the NW, it enters the lake of Chapala; and issu-

ing thence, holds its course in a similar direction; then turning to the SW, it falls into the bay of San-Blas, on the Pacific, in  $21^{\circ} 32' 48''$  N lat., and  $105^{\circ} 12'$  W long. It is sometimes called 'the Great river of Guadaluajara,' and its absolute course is estimated at 600 m. As the isthmus decreases in breadth, the rivers of course become comparatively smaller, and of less importance, except in so far as some of them may eventually be of use in facilitating an intercourse between the Pacific and the gulf of Mexico.

**Lakes.]** The lakes of the valley of M. are the five lakes of Chalco, Xochimilco, Tezcucio, San-Cristobal, and Zumpango, lying in a direction from S to N. Of these, the lake of Tezcucio is the largest, and occupies the lowest level of the valley. The whole area of these lakes is nearly one-tenth of the valley, that is 22 sq. leagues, or  $168\frac{3}{4}$  sq. m. of water. The valley itself, of an oval figure and surrounded on all sides by mountains, is 55 m. long, by  $37\frac{1}{2}$  m. broad, and 67 leagues, or 201 m. in circumf., containing a space of  $244\frac{1}{2}$  sq. leagues, or 1,876 sq. m. All the humidity furnished by the lofty girdle which surrounds this valley is collected in these lakes, which rise by successive degrees from the centre of the valley. The central lake of Tezcucio is consequently liable to great inundations from the swelling of the higher lakes, which pour their waters into it, and has repeatedly laid the city of M. under water; the great square of that city being only 47 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches above the level of the lake. To remedy this inconvenience, a desague or large canal has been constructed, to carry off the waters of the northern lakes into the river Tula; but the design has proved comparatively abortive, and the city is still exposed to inundation from the swelling of the lakes of Chalco and Xochimilco, which are 3 ft. 9 in. higher than that of Tezcucio. These five lakes are all more or less salt, but that of Tezcucio is most impregnated with that mineral, its water being heavier than that of the Baltic. The expense of the great canal for draining the waters of the Mexican lakes into the river Tula, from 1607 to 1789, amounted to 41,291,770. It has been proposed to render this canal navigable to the sea; but the expense would probably overbalance the profit, as it would require at least 300 locks to bring vessels from the sea to the level of the lake of Tezcucio, which is 7,467 ft. higher than that of the sea.—Between the Sierra de Espuelas and the Rio-Grande, lie the Laguna-Guzman, Laguna-Candelaria, and Laguna-de-los-Patos, of all of which little is known. To the S of the Bolson-de-Mapimi, are the Laguna-del-Cayman and the Laguna-de-Parras.

**Climate.]** If the extent of Central North America be considered in connexion with the extraordinary nature of its configuration, the variety of its climate must evidently be very great,—embracing the extremes of equatorial heat and polar cold. If climate were regulated by the mere circumstance of latitude, then the whole of Guatemala, and the greater part of the former viceroyalty of M., comprehending a space of 487,000 sq. m., would experience the heat of the torrid zone; whilst the internal provs.,—the Californias,—the unoccupied tracts,—and the northern parts of the old viceroyalty, embracing a surface of nearly 1,012,000 sq. m., would enjoy a moderate temp. But this is not the case. Climate is affected by a variety of causes, and is regulated more by elevation than by latitude; and of this truth M. affords a striking illustration. The whole of the coasts, along with Guatemala, possess a warm climate adapted for West Indian productions; and the temp. of the plains, elevated not more than 984 ft. above the sea, is from  $6^{\circ}$  to  $8^{\circ}$  of the centigrade therm., greater than the mean heat of Naples, or  $77^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit. These regions denominated by the Spaniards *tierras calientes*, or 'hot regions,' produce in abundance, sugar, indigo, cotton, and bananas. The port of Acapulco, and the valleys of Perigrino and Papagallo, are among the hottest and sunniest places of the world; but on the coast of the Mexican gulf, the great heats are occasionally tempered by streams of cold air carried from Hudson's bay towards the parallels of the Havannah and Vera Cruz, and blowing from October to March.—On the declivity of the table-land of M., at an elevation of from 3,356 to 4,865 ft., there reigns a perpetual soft spring-temp., which never varies more than  $4^{\circ}$  or  $5^{\circ}$ . This region is denominated by the natives the *tierra templada*.

or 'temperate regions.' The mean heat of the whole year is here from 68° to 70°, which is the temp. of Xalapa, Tasco, and Chilpancingo, three cities celebrated for their salubrity, and the abundance of fruit-trees in their vicinity. Unfortunately, this mean elevation of 4,264 ft. is the height to which the clouds ascend from the sea; consequently those temperate regions are often involved in thick fogs.—The third climatic region is that of the table-land of Anahuac, or the elevated plains of M., denominated the *terras frías*, or 'cold regions.' This elevated tract, comprehending a space of 23,000 sq. leagues, or upwards of 176,000 sq. m., within the tropic of Cancer, and embracing plains whose alt. is more than 7,217 ft. above the sea, has a mean temp. of 62°. In the city of M., the centigrade therm. has been known to fall several degrees below the freezing point; but this is a very rare occurrence, and the winters are usually as mild as at Naples. In the coldest season, the mean heat of the day is from 55° to 60° of Fahrenheit; and in summer the therm. never rises above 75° in the shade; the mean temp. of the whole table-land is therefore equal to that of Rome. The plains, however, whose elevation is more than that of the capital, or exceeds 8,501 ft., possess, even within the tropics, a rude and disagreeable climate. Such are the plains of Toluca, and the heights of Gochilague, where, during a great part of the day, the air is never warmer than from 43° to 45°, and the olive-tree bears no fruit though cultivated successfully in the valley of M. All these upper regions enjoy a mean temp. of from 51° to 55°, which is equal to that of France and Lombardy; yet the vegetation is less vigorous, and European plants do not grow with the same luxuriance as in their natal soil. The solar rays are not sufficiently powerful in the rarefied air of those elevated plains, to accelerate the development of flowers and the ripening of fruit. This constant equality,—this want of ephemeral heat,—imprints a peculiar character upon these equinoctial regions in the higher climates. Thus the cultivation of several species of vegetables on the ridge of the high table-land is more difficult than in plains situated to the N. of the tropics, though frequently the mean heat of these plains is less than that of the plains situated between the 19th and 22d parallels. It thus appears that the climate and productions of M. are modified chiefly by the degree of elevation or depression of the soil. Under the latter parallel, sugar, cotton, cacao, and indigo, are produced abundantly at an elevation of from 1,968 to 2,624 ft. European wheat occupies a zone on the declivity of the mountains, commencing at 4,592 ft., and ending at 9,842 ft. of elevation; bananas bear almost no fruit above 5,034 ft. of elevation; Mexican oaks grow only between 2,624 and 9,842 ft. of elevation; and the pine never descends towards the coast of Vera-Cruz lower than 6,668 ft., nor rises near the region of leading snow to an elevation of more than 13,123 ft.—The climate of what are denominated the internal provinces, situated in the temperate zone, especially that of New Mexico, differs essentially from that of the provinces of the old viceroyalty, and from that of the same parallels on the old continent. Here German winters succeed Italian summers. In New Mexico, particularly, the air is much colder than in the same latitudes in the United States. The reason of this is, that New Mexico is a long and not very wide valley, bounded on all sides except the S by ranges of lofty mountains covered with eternal snows; and the air is pure, and not subject to damps and fogs. In the peninsula of Old California, the climate is mild, and the sky constantly serene and cloudless; and should any clouds appear for a moment at the setting of the sun, they display the most beautiful shades of violet, green, and purple; but unfortunately the sky is more beautiful than the earth; the soil is sandy, and rains are infrequent. In New California, on the contrary, the air is obscured by frequent fogs, which however invigorate vegetation and fertilize the soil; and the climate is much more mild than in the same latitudes on the E. coast of America. In the extensive internal province of New Biscay, or Durango, the air is dry and the heat intense, previous to the annual rains which commence in June and continue till September. These rains, however, are but slight showers; during the other nine months, there is neither rain nor snow to moisten the ground. In Texas the climate is one of the most delightful in the world; but as the surface is level, and still thickly covered with timber, the new settlers are generally unhealthy.—In the interior of M., but particularly throughout the greater part of the table-land of Anahuac, the aridity of the soil bears resemblance to that of Tibet and the saline steppes of Central Asia. The evaporation which takes place on great plains is sensibly increased by the great elevation of the Mexican Alps; on the other hand, the country is not sufficiently elevated for any considerable number of summits to pierce the region of perpetual snow. This region,—which under the equator is supposed by Humboldt to commence at the elevation of 15,747 ft., and under 45° N. lat. at 8,366 ft.,—commences in M., between the parallels of 19° and 20°, at 15,091 ft. Hence only four mountains, namely Orizava, Popocatepetl, Istaccolhuatl, and the Nevado-de-Toluca, enter this region. To the N. and S. of this, no mountains exhibit this phenomenon till we arrive at New Mexico. These snows, at their maximum in September, never descend below 14,763 ft. in the parallel of Mexico; but in the month of January they fall as low as 12,128 ft. While Humboldt was at Mexico, such immense falls of snow had taken place in January that the mountains of Popocatepetl and Istaccolhuatl were almost united by one band of snow. The difference between the minimum and maximum, or the oscillation of the limits of perpetual snow, consequently is, under the parallel of 19° N. from one season to the other,

2,624 ft. If, however, Humboldt's statement of 15,091 ft., as the inferior limit or minimum of this region be true, he is inconsistent with himself; as the oscillation must be 2,858 ft., or 238 ft. more. He affirms that, in November, the lowest limit of perpetual snow was 14,956 ft., or 193 ft. higher than in September; whence we must infer, either that his hypothesis concerning the minimum of descent of these limits is erroneous, or that more snow falls in September than in November, which is contrary to universal experience and his own statement. At an elevation of only 9,842 ft. snow is occasionally seen; it has been even seen in the streets of Mexico, at an elevation of 7,470 ft., and at Valladolid, at an alt. of 6,156 ft. or 1,314 ft. lower. If the cold of the high table-land of M. be singularly great in winter, its heat is much greater in summer than on the Andes of Quito. The great mass of the Mexican Alps, and the immense extent of the plains, produce a reverboration of the solar rays never observed in countries of greater inequality of surface; and this intense heat contributes much to the aridity of the soil. Rains are infrequent in the interior of the table-land; the great height of which, and the small barometrical pressure of the air, indicating its comparative want of condensation, accelerate evaporation. The ascending columns of warm air from the low plains on the coasts prevent the clouds from precipitating themselves in rain to water a land dry, saline, and destitute of vegetation. This aridity of the central land, combined with a scarcity of rivers and a want of trees, greatly obstructs the working of the mines; but happily it is confined to the more elevated districts. The declivity of the table-land is exposed to humid winds and aqueous vapours, and the vegetation nourished by these is uncommonly vigorous. The quantity of rain which annually falls at Vera-Cruz is estimated at nearly 74 in.

**Diseases.** The diseases which make greatest ravages among the pop. are the small-pox, the *matlazahuatl*, and the yellow fever, denominated in New Spain the *sonito prieto*. The first, introduced by the Europeans in 1520, appears to renew its ravages every 17 or 18 years. It committed terrible devastation in 1763, 1779, and 1797; and in 1779, in the capital alone, 9,000 were swept off by this destructive disorder. Vaccine inoculation was introduced in 1804, and has happily contributed to extirpate a disorder which has swept off so many myriads of the native race and almost depopulated the Californias.—The *matlazahuatl* is a disease peculiar to the Indians of New Spain, never attacking Europeans or the mixed races. It has at different periods made great ravages among the natives, extending its baneful influence through the interior of the table-land, particularly in 1762, when the Indians of the valley of Mexico perished by thousands. Very little is known of the nature of this disease.—The *sonito prieto* is chiefly confined to the maritime regions, where the climate is excessively warm and humid, as in the S states of the American union. It is, however, unknown on the W coasts of M. The greatest seat of its ravages is the city of Vera Cruz.

**Soil and Vegetable productions.** The variety of indigenous Mexican productions is immense; indeed there hardly exists a plant on the face of the globe which is not capable of being cultivated in this country, on some part between the burning coast-lands and the icy summits of the Cordilleras. Were the soil of New Spain watered by more frequent rains, no country cultivated by human industry would exceed it; but unfortunately the want of water diminishes the abundance of the harvests. Only two seasons are known in the equinoctial regions of M., even as far as 28° N. lat., namely the rainy and the dry seasons; the former commencing in June or July, and continuing till the end of September or beginning of October; the latter commencing in October, and continuing till the end of May. On the proportion between these two seasons greatly depends the agricultural prosperity of M. The farmer or planter has seldom reason to complain of too great humidity. If his maize and European grains are exposed to partial inundations in the plains, which often form circular basins enclosed by mountains, the grain sown on the slopes of the hills vegetates proportionally with greater vigour. From the parallel of 24° to 28° the rains are still less frequent and of shorter duration. Happily the melting of the snow, of which there is abundance in these latitudes, supplies to some extent the want of rain. The prevailing drought, however, compels the inhabitants of a great part of this vast country to have recourse to artificial irrigations.—The more important vegetable productions of M. may be divided into two kinds: namely those which serve for home-consumption and those which furnish raw materials for manufac-

tures and commerce. Amongst the former are the banana, the manioc, maize, the European cerealia, potatoes, the *oca*, the *igname*, the *batatas*, the *cacomito*, the *tomat*, the *chimalat*, rice, and all the kitchen herbs and fruit-trees of Europe. The latter comprehends the sugar-cane, cotton, flax, and hemp, coffee, cocoa, vanilla, sarsaparilla, jalap, tobacco, and indigo.—The banana is for all the inhabitants of the tropics what the cereal gramina are for western Asia and Europe, and what the numerous varieties of rice are for the countries beyond the Indus, especially Bengal and China. Wherever the mean heat of the two continents, and the islands dispersed throughout the immense Pacific, exceeds 75°, the fruit of the banana becomes one of the most important objects of cultivation for human subsistence. It may be observed that, under the name banana, a number of plants essentially differing in the form of their fruits are cultivated in the equinoctial regions, and even as far as 33° and 34° N lat. In Mexico, three species of the banana are cultivated, namely the *arton* or true platano, the *camburi*, and the *dominico*. The cultivation of the banana ascends to an elevation of 4,350 ft. Notwithstanding the great height and extent of the M. table-land, the space favourable for the cultivation of the banana exceeds 384,000 sq. m. In the warm and humid valleys of Vera-Cruz, at the foot of Orizaba, the fruit of the *arton* sometimes exceeds 1½ inches, and is often from 7 to 8 in. long. Its cultivation requires little attention: the suckers once planted, nature does the rest; in ten or eleven months the fruit comes to maturity. It is used either fresh, or sliced and partially dried in the sun, when it is called *platano pasado*. The difference between its produce and that of the cereal gramina of Europe is prodigious. The mean produce of the banana is to that of wheat as 133 to 1, and to that of the potato root as 4½ to 1. On the confines of the temperate and the torrid zones, are cultivated the sugar-cane, cotton, cacao, and indigo; but this cultivation rarely ascends above the elevation of 1,800 or 2,400 ft. In the hot region, as high as 1,200 ft., the fan-leaved palms, the *Miraguana* and *Pamos* palms, the white *Oreodoxa*, the *Tournefortia velutina*, the *Cordia gerascanthus*, the willow-leaved *Cephalanthus*, the *Hyptis bursata*, *Sapianthus arenarius*, *Gomphrena globosa*, pinnated calabash-tree or *Crescentia pinnata*, the *Podopterus Mexicanus*, willow-leaved bignonia, *Salvia occidentalis*, *Pedicular Havanense*, *Gyrocarpus*, *Leucophyllum ambiguum*, *Gomphia Mexicana*, *Panicum divaricatum*, *Bauhinia aculeata*, *Hematoxylon radiatum*, *Hymenaea coarbatil*, *Folius retusus*, *Swietenia Mexicana*, and the sumac-leaved *Malpighia*, predominate in the spontaneous vegetation. The region from 1,200 to 6,600 ft. of elevation presents the *Liquidamber*, *Styraciflua*, *Erythroxylon Mexicanum*, *Aralia digitata*, *Chicus pazcuarensis*, *Guadiola Mexicana*, *Tagetes tenuifolia*, *Psychotria pauciflora*, *Ipomoea cholulensis*, *Convolvulus arborescens*, *Veronica xalapensis*, *Globularia Mexicana*, *Salvia Mexicana*, *Vitex mollis*, thick-flowered arbutus, *Eugenia protaeflorum*, *Laurus Cereantii*, willow-leaved daphne, *Fritillaria barbata*, *Yucca spinosa*, *Cobaea scandens*, yellow sage; four varieties of Mexican oaks, commencing at an elevation of 2,820 ft., and ending at 9,720 ft.; the mountain-yew, and the corrugated angular *Banisteria*. In the cold region, at a height of from 6,600 to 14,100 ft., we meet with the thick-stemmed oak [*Quercus crassipes*], the Mexican rose, the alder, which disappears at the height of 11,100 ft.; the *Cheirostenon plananoides*, the *Krameria*, the *Valeriana ceratophylla*, the *Datura superba*, the cardinal sage, the dwarf potentilla, the myrtle-leaved arbutus, the *Cotonaster denticulata*, and the Mexican strawberry. The pines, which commence

in the temperate zone at the height of 5,700 ft. disappear in the cold region at 12,300 ft. Thus the coniferous trees, unknown in S. America, here terminate, as they do in the Alps and Pyrenæes, the scale of vegetation in the larger plants. At the very limit of perpetual snow we find the *Arenaria bryoides*, the *Chicus nivalis*, and the *Chelone gentianoides*. This country produces indigenous species of the cherry-tree, apple, walnut, mulberry, and strawberry. It has likewise made the acquisition of the greater part of the fruits of Europe, as well as those of the torrid zone. The *maguay*, a variety of the agave, furnishes a drink denominated *pulque*, of which the inhabitants of Mexico consume a very great quantity. The fibres of the *maguay* supply hemp and paper; and the prickles are used for pins and nails. The *maguay* grows, in good land, to an enormous size. The centre stem is often 25 or 30 ft. high, and 12 or 15 inches in diam. at the bottom; the branches 1½ ft. wide, and 4 or 5 inches thick. When the plant is in its efflorescent state—which varies from 7 to 15 years from the planting—the centre stem is cut off at the bottom, and a bowl made in which the juice accumulates. This is extracted with a rude suction-pipe made of a long gourd, which the Indian labourer applies to his mouth; when the gourd is filled, the contents are emptied into an ox-hide dressed and made perfectly tight. There the liquor ferments, when it is drawn off into smaller vessels made of the skin of a hog, and in these it is carried to market. One plant of the *maguay* often yields 150 galls. Humboldt says that a single plant of the *maguay* will yield 452 cub. in. of liquor in 24 hours, and for four or five months. The pulque has little strength,—about as great as that of cider. Its smell is very much that of putrid meat, and is, of course, offensive to every one who drinks it for the first time; but most persons like it after they become accustomed to it.

*Animal kingdom.* With the exception of the cochineal insect, the most valuable animals known in Mexico have been introduced by Europeans. The Mexicans themselves had not even reduced to a domestic state the two species of wild oxen which wander in immense herds near the plains of the Rio-del-Norte; they were unacquainted with the lama of the Cordilleras of the Andes; and made no use of the wild sheep of California, or of the wild goats of New California. The want of domestic animals was severely felt before the conquest, and forced a large portion of the people to labour as beasts of burden, and to do that service which is now performed by mules. The domestic animals imported from Europe, as oxen, sheep, horses, and hogs, have multiplied amazingly, especially in the vast plains of the internal provinces. Immense numbers of horned cattle feed on the ever-verdant pastures, lying between the Huasteco and the Alvarado; the capital, however, and the great towns in its vicinity, draw their chief supplies of animal food from the northern state of Durango. The natives, like the Chinese and Cochinchinese, care little for milk, butter, and cheese; but the two latter are in great request among the castes of mixed extraction, and form a considerable branch of foreign commerce. In the intendancy of Guadalajara, the annual value of dressed hides manufactured, amounted to 419,080 dollars. The horses of the northern provs., and particularly of New Mexico and Texas, are as celebrated for their excellent qualities as those of Chili. Both are said to be of Arabian extraction. Vast herds of wild horses wander in the savannas of Texas, and their exportation to New Orleans, and the western states of the American union, becomes every year of greater importance. Many Mexican families possess in their *hatos-de-ganado* from 30,000 to 40,000 head of oxen and horses. Mules would be still more numerous, if so many of them did not perish from the excessive fatigue of journeys of several months' continuance. The commerce of Vera Cruz alone employs 70,000 mules; and 5,000 are employed in the carriages of the city of Mexico. The rearing of sheep has been wonderfully neglected in New Spain, as well as in all the other Spanish colonies. Merino sheep seem never to have been introduced, and no care has been taken to ameliorate the breed. The best wool is produced in the intendancy of Valladolid. In New Mexico the colonists, though they scarcely take half the fleece of the sheep for their coarse manufactures, and for making beds have always immense quantities of raw wool lying on their lands.—Of wild animals peculiar to M., the gigantic stags of New California, called *sevadus* by the Spaniards, are perhaps the chief. The forests and plains in this region are filled with droves of this animal, which is justly of firm by every traveller to be the most beautiful quadruped of



America, and is quite different from the elk of the United States. They are of a brown colour, smooth, and without spot. Their branches are 4½ ft. long; and some have been seen whose branches were nearly 3 ft. in length. They run with great rapidity, throwing their heads back, and supporting their branches on their backs; no horses are capable of outrunning them, but they are caught by nooses in the same manner as the wild horses are caught in Texas. The other wild animals are, the tapir, which is extremely fierce and voracious, and whose skin will resist a musket-ball, monkeys of various species, bears, wolves, foxes, and wild cats; all these, except the tapir, are common to both continents. The jaguar is met with in the lower part of M. Of the hog there are only two varieties,—one introduced from Europe, and the other from the Philippine Islands. They have multiplied amazingly on the central table-land; and in the valley of Toluca, an extensive and lucrative commerce in bacon is carried on.

The feathered tribes are so numerous, and of such various appearances and qualities, that M. has been called the country of birds, as Africa is that of quadrupeds *par excellence*. Hernandez describes above 200 species of birds peculiar to M. Its eagles and hawks are allowed to be superior to those of Europe. The species of eagle called *aguililla*, which is the largest and most beautiful, will attack not merely the larger birds and quadrupeds but even man himself. The Mexican ravens do not feed on carrion, but upon grain. Aquatic birds are numerous, and of great variety. There are at least 20 species of ducks, which sometimes cover the fields in vast quantities; also vast numbers of geese, with several species of herons, swans, quails, pelicans, &c. New Spain has furnished Europe with the largest of its domestic birds, the turkey, which was formerly found wild on the back of the Cordillera, from the isthmus of Panama to New England. The wild turkey is now found in the northern provinces only, having withdrawn as the pop. increased, and the forests became thinned.

As wax is an object of great importance in a Catholic country, the rearing of bees has always been a principal concern in M. Bee hives are extremely productive in Yucatan, which, in 1803, exported above 16,000 lbs. of bees'-wax to Mexico. The vicinity of sugar-plantations is unfavourable to bees, who are so greedy of sugar that they drown themselves in the juice of the cane, which intoxicates them. The rearing of the cochineal insect is of great antiquity in Mexico, but was formerly more general than now. These insects feed upon a shrub called the nopal or *Cactus cochenillifer*; but Spanish avarice and oppression have ruined this branch of Indian industry everywhere except in the intendancy of Oaxaca. In Yucatan, about 70 years since, the Indians cut down in one night all the nopales where the cochineal insects were reared. There are two species of the insect, namely, the fine, and the wild cochineal; it is the former which is reared, and produces three kinds of cochineal, denominated *grana, granos, and paises de grana*. The quantity of cochineal furnished to Europe by the intendancy of Oaxaca is 880,000 lbs. annually, or upwards of £500,000 sterling in value.

The Mexican fisheries are at present of no importance. The pearl-fisheries of California were much more productive anciently than now; but have been long since abandoned, though several successive efforts have been made to re-establish them. The western coasts of New Spain abound in spermaceal-whales, but this fishery has been wholly engrossed by the British and Americans.

**Minerals and minerals.]** The Mexican mountains, like those of the Old continent, contain almost every mineral indispensable to agriculture, manufacture, and the fine arts. Unfortunately, however, the labour of man has in Spanish America been almost exclusively devoted to the extraction of gold and silver from the bowels of the earth. The mines of iron and lead on the ridge of the Mexican cordilleras, which only require to be opened to disclose their superabundance, have been wholly neglected; while those of gold and silver have been sedulously wrought, even when they exhibited but small indications of wealth. Hence it has happened, that with a superabundance of the precious metals, the want of the others has been severely felt in this country whenever foreign commerce has been suspended by war. At one period, 30,000,000 of dollars were accumulated in this country, while the manufacturers and miners were suffering from the want of steel, iron, and mercury. Before the peace of Amiens, iron had risen in M. from 18s. 9d. to £11 5s. per cwt.; and steel from £3 10s. to £25 17s. 6d. per cwt.! The Mexican colonists were in the issue compelled to have recourse to the iron and mercury of their own mountains, and began to manufacture their own steel; but no sooner was peace restored, than these undertakings were abandoned. To the superabundance of the precious metals, some have likewise attributed the backwardness of agriculture in the Spanish colonies; but Humboldt is of a different opinion. So far, says he, is mining from being prejudicial to agriculture, that no sooner is a mine discovered and wrought, than cultivation, immediately commences in its vicinity,—towns and villages are built,—provisions are wanted for the workmen, and subsistence for the cattle employed in the mines,—whatever the vicinity can produce is raised in abundance. A flourishing state of agriculture is thus established, which frequently survives the prosperity of the mine to which it was indebted for its origin; the husbandman remains and cultivates his field, after the miner who had first set him on work is gone to another district in quest of a more abundant or less-exhausted mine. The Indians, in particular, who prefer mountains to plains, seldom quit the farms on which they have once been established.

The Mexican mines are geologically divided by Humboldt into eight groups, almost all placed either on the ridge or on the western side of the cordillera of Anahuac; the whole forming a surface of 12,000 sq. leagues, or 100,000 sq. m. These groups are not to be considered as forming one connected and continuous surface, but as so many distinct localities, with vast tracts of intervening spaces almost totally destitute of metalliferous veins. Of these eight groups, that which contains, within a surface of 16,000 sq. m., the mines of Guanajuato, Zacatecas, and Catere, is by far the richest, supplying more than one-half the metallic produce of New Spain. The principal rocks which at present furnish almost all the silver of M. are porphyritic, reposing on beds of primitive slate, greywacke, and alpine limestone. The most celebrated mines of M. are situated at absolute heights of from 5,904 to 3,842 ft.; whilst those of Freyburg in Saxony, and Clausthal in the Harz, are only elevated from 1,188 to 1,869 ft. above the sea. The temperate climate of the Mexican mining-towns is a perfect contrast to the cold, arid, and disagreeable climate of Micapampa, Pasco, Huancavelica, and other mining-estates in Peru, where the absolute elevation is much greater.

History does not inform us at what period the mines of M. began to be wrought, or were first discovered. It is well known, however, that the natives did not content themselves with those minerals which they found in their native state on the surface of the earth, and particularly in the beds of rivers and ravines formed by torrents; but applied themselves to subterranean operations in working veins, cutting galleries, and digging pits of communication and ventilation; and that they possessed instruments adapted for cutting rocks. Gold, silver, copper, lead, and tin, were publicly sold in the great market of M. The tribute of the people of Tzapolala and Mixtlan was paid in two ways,—either by collecting in small wicker-baskets the grains of native gold,—or by founding the metal into bars. In the time of Montezuma, the silver-mines of Tasco, and those which run across the mountains of Zampango, were wrought by the natives. Lead and tin were extracted from the veins of Tasco, cinnamon from those of Chilaipan, and copper—which was commonly employed in all the mechanical arts, and supplied to a certain extent the use of iron and steel, and of which all their arms, axes, chisels, and tools were made—from the mines of Zacatollan and Cobulco. The mines of Tasco, Zultepecque, Tlalpujahua, and Pachuca, were the first wrought by the Spaniards; those of Zacatecas followed very closely. The vein of San-Barnabe was begun 28 years after the conquest. The principal vein of Guanajuato was discovered somewhat later. The mines of Coahuila are still more ancient than those of Guanajuato, but their date is unknown.

All the Mexican mines are situated between the extreme points of 16° and 31° N lat., none having as yet been discovered to the S or N of these latitudes. Within this space are contained about 350 *reals*, or places celebrated for mines in their vicinity; and the number of mines comprehended in these *reals* is nearly 3,000. These mines were again divided, under the old regime, into 87 districts, over which were placed the same number of councils, called *Diputaciones-de-Municipla*. The following table exhibits a view of the mining districts and *reals* in Mexico, according to Humboldt:

Intendancies.	Districts.	Reals.
1. Guanajuato,	1	19
2. Zacatecas,	4	14
3. San-Luis Potosi,	5	28
4. Mexico,	7	60
5. Guadalupe,	8	44
6. Durango,	5	61
7. Sonora,	7	68
8. Valladolid,	4	27
9. Oaxaca,	1	17
9	57	337

In the intendancies of Puebla, Vera Cruz, and Old California, there were no *diputaciones*, as in the other intendancies; but the number of *reals* amounted to 12. Total 349.

Of all the mining districts, that of Guanajuato is at present the most important, owing to the immense riches of the La-Luz vein, which has been worked to the extent of some 1,000 varas, by a number of shafts sunk the whole extent of the vein as far as it has been traced. According to the Spanish '*Ordenanza-de-mineria*,' which are very favourable to miners, and the ruling law in all the old Spanish domains, every one is entitled to a claim of 200 varas, or '*propiedad*,' upon paying 40 d. for each claim, to the '*junta-de-mineria*,' or the first alcalde. The law requires that each mine thus claimed be worked, and is forfeited if deserted during the course of one year. The facility thus granted to the public is the reason that all mines are owned by private individuals; and as no earthly power can deprive a miner of his mine, house, and bed, they are seen working for years to cut the vein as long as the slightest hope remains; and after exhausting his credit, the poor miner will always find means to get his tools suspended, even if nothing but a dry *fortilla* be his fare. During the Spanish dominion the mines were worked by Spaniards of pure blood; but when Mexican independence in 1822 opened her gates to foreign competition, British and German mining-companies entered upon the field. Unacquainted with Mexican usages, and abused by a host of hungry speculators, they, however, only lost millions of dollars. Thus, some English companies worked the mines of Oajaca, Tlalpujahua, El Oro, Real-del-Monte, Catere, Bolanos, and the Valenciana at Guanajuato,

and Veta-Grande at Zacatecas, at an expense of 20,000,000 d.; and the German American mining association spent 2,000,000 d. at Angangaco, Tomasculpepe, Orizaba, Chio, Zimapan, and other mining-districts. The Real-del-Monte company had to sell for 180,000 d. nearly 1,000,000 d. worth of improvements and stock on hand; and lost about £1,000,000, in spite of a monthly production of 80,000 d. of silver. The only remarkable mining-companies in M. are the Oro company, producing about 100 d. per month of gold and silver; the Mineral-del-Oro, in the state of M.; and the Fresnillo company, working the mines of this name near Zacatecas, which yield but a very poor ore of about 3 ounces silver per quintal, but in such abundance that they employ some thousand men and as many mules, and give handsome returns to the shareholders. A new company has been formed to finish the famous Scobon of Catorce, in the state of San-Luis, wide enough to drive with a cart into the mountain, and which, when finished, will save the enormous expense of drawing the water and metal out by machinery. The Mexicans generally use for this purpose a plain machinery called *malacate*, being a horizontal wheel turned by horses or mules, and winding the water or metal out in large bags made of cowhides; while the foreign companies constructed enormous water-wheels or steam-engines, raising the water by pumps to a height of several hundred yards. Rich mines are worked in almost every state of the country, from Oajaca to Chihuahua, but, being badly conducted, they yield but very little. Of quicksilver there are plenty of veins all over the country, but only those of Jalisco and Guadalupe, in the state of San-Luis, have been worked to any extent. The recent importations from California of this metal have had a favourable influence on mining in general. The total amount of gold and silver coined in the M. mints for the eighteen months terminating the 30th of June, 1849, was as follows:

	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
Chihuahua, .....	—	332,208	332,208
Guadalajara, .....	21,652	938,896	960,542
Guadalupe-y-Caibo, .....	—	1,045,185	1,045,185
Guanaxuato, .....	861,480	10,681,000	11,542,080
Mexico, .....	125,920	2,430,278	2,556,698
San-Luis-Potosi, .....	—	2,052,268	2,052,268
Zacatecas, .....	—	7,129,920	7,129,920
Durango, .....	25,077	1,483,569	1,508,626
Culiacan, .....	317,307	929,571	1,246,878
Total, in dollars, 1,351,416		27,003,989	28,355,405

Adding to this sum 9,000,000 or 10,000,000 of dollars for the 6 or 6½ millions that, according to certain data, are left uncoined, and which in virtue of permission are fraudulently exported, the result is, that the whole amount extracted during the period above cited exceeds 38,000,000 d. "It is a remarkable fact," says Mr. Birkmyre, "that in the country where the greatest increase of silver has taken place there was concurrently a loss of thousands of pounds of English capital by the various English silver-mining-companies; so much so that none of all the silver-mining-companies projected to work mines in M. between 1824 and 1830 have been successful. Some of them were being wound up during the very time when mining was prosperously conducted by the Mexicans. This seems to have been owing to a want of knowledge, or of control, or to the mischief of share-jobbing in the English companies; but whatever may have been the cause, the natives have found silver-mining to be profitable. The enormous profit of £240,000 a-year obtained by the Spaniards from the Valencianna mine—a profit larger than all the tin and copper-mines of England put together—is generally looked upon more as a fable than a reality by those who have heard casually of silver-mining as conducted by English mining-companies. The English gold-mining companies have done better; and probably had they some 20 years ago the skill and knowledge of the present day, they would have been highly successful."

The total produce of the M. mines up to the commencement of the 18th cent. did not exceed the average annual amount of 600,000 marks of gold and silver; so that we may infer, that in the 16th cent. comparatively little activity was displayed in working them. The veins of Tasco, Tlaxcala, Zultepec, Moran, Real-de-Monte, Sombretete, Bolanos, Batopilas, and Rosario, have occasionally afforded immense wealth, but their produce has been less uniform than that of the mines of Guanaxuato, Zacatecas, and Catorce. The silver extracted in the 37 districts of mines was deposited in the provincial treasuries of the intendencias; and it is from these receipts that we must judge of the quantity of silver furnished by the different mines. From 1785 to 1789, there were received in the deposits of 11 provincial treasuries, the following quantities of silver, valuing the marks at 8½ dollars each:

	Marks.	Dollars.	£
Guanaxuato, .....	2,469,000	20,986,500	4,721,962
San-Luis-Potosi, .....	1,515,000	12,577,500	2,897,437
Zacatecas, .....	1,205,000	10,242,500	2,304,587
Mexico, .....	1,034,000	8,667,500	2,017,937
Durango, .....	922,000	7,835,778	1,763,150
Rosario, .....	668,000	5,678,000	1,277,450
Guadalajara, .....	569,000	4,326,500	973,462
Pachuca, .....	455,000	3,867,500	870,167
Bolanos, .....	304,000	2,094,000	469,150

Sombretete, .....	320,000	2,720,000	621,000
Zimapan, .....	218,000	2,108,000	474,400
Totals, .....	9,730,000	82,705,000	18,668,622

As to the exact quantity of gold and silver extracted from the mines of New Spain since its conquest by Cortez, it is impossible to judge with precision. Approximation to truth is the utmost that can be attained on this subject. The archives of the mint at M., which contain accurate accounts of the quantity of the precious metals coined in New Spain, go no farther back than 1690; any knowledge, therefore, of the quantity coined previous to that period must be entirely conjectural. From these archives Humboldt has presented his readers with two tables: one expressing the value of the gold and silver coined from 1690 to 1806, in double piastres or dollars; the other indicating the quantity of silver in marks given into the mint and converted into dollars. These tables, embracing a series of 117 years—namely, from 1690 to 1806—may be divided into 12 divisions, the last containing 7 years, the others 10 years each; and are, omitting fractions, as follows:

## I.—GOLD AND SILVER COINED AT MEXICO FROM 1690 TO 1806.

1690 to 1699	43,871,335 d. =	£9,871,050
1700 — 1709	51,731,034	11,639,482
1710 — 1719	65,747,027	14,739,081
1720 — 1729	84,153,225	18,934,475
1730 — 1739	90,529,730	20,345,189
1740 — 1749	111,855,040	25,167,384
1750 — 1759	125,750,094	28,293,771
1760 — 1769	128,820,860	28,586,493
1770 — 1779	165,181,729	37,165,889
1780 — 1789	193,504,557	43,538,524
1790 — 1799	231,080,214	51,993,048
1800 — 1806	153,128,877	34,453,397
	1,429,361,717	321,606,383

## II.—ANNUAL AVERAGE OF GOLD AND SILVER COINED AT MEXICO FROM 1690 TO 1806.

1690 to 1699	4,387,133 d. =	£987,105
1700 — 1709	5,173,103	1,163,948
1710 — 1719	6,574,702	1,473,308
1720 — 1729	8,415,322	1,893,447
1730 — 1739	9,052,973	2,036,918
1740 — 1749	11,185,504	2,516,738
1750 — 1759	12,575,009	2,829,377
1760 — 1769	12,882,860	2,858,649
1770 — 1779	16,518,172	3,716,588
1780 — 1789	19,350,455	4,353,852
1790 — 1799	23,108,021	5,199,304
1800 — 1806	15,875,553	3,521,999
	12,216,763	2,748,773

It is to be observed that the last period contains only 7 years, viz., from 1800 to 1806. The three last years of this period produced 75,909,697 d., or an average of 25,303,232 d., exceeding the period of 1765-6-7 by 591,612 d., or 197,204 d. annually. The quantity of silver alone produced from the mines of M. from 1690 to 1800 inclusive, amounted to 149,350,721 marks, or 98,008,212 lbs. troy, value £269,481,128 d., or £285,633,263. From the 1st of January 1772, when the great increase first took place in the mines of New Spain, to the 31st December 1806, the coinage of gold and silver amounted to 724,444,916 d., viz., 696,107,230 d., or 81,657,515 marks silver, value in British money £156,730,231, and 28,337,686 d., or 208,366 marks gold, value in British money £5,667,337. Total, £162,397,768, averaging £4,639,933, or 20,698,423 d. annually, and the quantity of gold produced as 1 to 390. But this statement of Humboldt's, however clear and satisfactory respecting the enormous increase in the produce of these mines, is far below the calculation of Pike, who affirms that the silver in the M. mint is 50,000,000 d., and of gold 14,000,000 d. annually; being a total of 64,000,000 d., or about three times more than the truth, and one-half more than all the gold and silver produced in all America put together. Ward computes, that in the 15 years between 1810 and 1825, the annual produce of the M. mines did not exceed 10,000,000 d., or about two-fifths of what he considers to have been their average produce during the 15 preceding years.—From 1807 to 1826, the quantity of silver raised and coined in M. was as follows:

Dollars.	£	Dollars.	£
1807 20,502,434	4,100,487	1821 7,764,036	1,552,811
1808 20,703,985	4,140,797	1822 10,852,832	2,170,564
1809 24,708,164	4,941,634	1823 9,115,272	1,823,054
1810 18,566,717	3,713,943	1824 9,362,391	1,872,478
1811 13,210,583	2,642,117	1825 8,668,474	1,733,685
1812 8,598,896	1,739,779	1826 8,374,130	1,674,226
1813 10,509,994	2,101,999	1827 10,021,868	2,004,374
1814 10,612,679	2,122,516	1828 9,791,185	1,958,237
1815 7,932,824	1,586,565	1829 11,100,965	2,220,793
1816 9,578,097	1,916,619	1830 11,028,764	2,205,753
1817 9,083,039	1,816,608	1831 11,828,924	2,365,785
1818 12,365,996	2,473,199	1832 11,652,086	2,330,417
1819 12,762,218	2,552,443	1833 11,481,827	2,296,366
1820 11,077,580	2,215,616		

**Gold-mines.]** The M. gold is for the most part obtained from alluvions grounds, by means of washing. These grounds are common in the state of Sonora. In the plain of Choequilla, grains of gold of such a size were found, at the depth of 19 in. from the surface, that some of them weighed 9 marks each, equivalent in value to £283. In the mines of Yecorata in Cinaloa, a piece of gold was found which weighed 16 marks, 4 oz., and 4 ochavas, value £540, which was sent to the royal cabinet at Madrid. *Pepites* of pure gold have been found in Primeria-Alta, in 31° N lat., weighing from 5 lbs. 2 oz. 2 dr. 2 scr. 8 gr. to 8 lbs. 4 dr. 12 gr. But the frequent incursions of the warlike savages,—the excessive high price of provisions in this uncultivated country,—and the want of water necessary for working,—are all great obstacles to the extraction of gold in this place. Another, but the smallest portion of M. gold, is extracted from the veins which intersect the mountains of primitive rock, particularly in the intendancy of Oaxaca, either in granites or in micaceous schist. This last rock is very rich in gold in the celebrated mines of Rio-San-Antonio. These veins, of which the *gangue* is milky quartz, are more than 1 ft. 6 in. thick, but their richness is very unequal. The same metal is also to be found, either pure or mixed with silver ore, in the greater number of veins which have been wrought in M., and there is scarcely a single silver-mine which does not contain some gold. Native gold is also frequently found crystallized in a reticulated form in the silver-mines of Villalpando and Rayas, near Guanajuato; in those of Sombrero, in the intendancy of Valladolid; of Guarismay, to the W of Durango; and of Mesquite, in Guadalupe. The gold of Mesquite is deemed to be the purest, as being least alloyed with silver, iron, and copper. The principal vein in the mine of Villalpando is intersected by a number of small rotten veins of argillaceous or clayey slime, of exceeding richness. The quantity of gold raised and coined in M. from 1807 to 1836 was as follows:

Dollars.	£	Dollars.	£
1807 1,512,296	392,453	1821 203,504	60,701
1808 1,182,316	295,505	1822 214,138	42,826
1809 1,454,818	292,963	1823 348,264	68,653
1810 1,095,394	219,191	1824 318,192	63,658
1811 1,085,264	217,073	1825 525,212	105,042
1812 412,435	82,487	1826 232,148	46,439
1813 30,789	6,157	1827 597,349	119,469
1814 618,069	123,614	1828 191,720	38,344
1815 486,464	97,299	1829 686,168	137,234
1816 960,350	192,079	1830 267,072	53,414
1817 854,942	170,988	1831 211,887	42,377
1818 533,921	106,784	1832 351,049	70,210
1819 539,577	107,875	1833 573,666	114,733
1820 309,076	101,815		

M. Chevalier, putting together the results of his elaborate investigations into the subject, in his work entitled *Des Mines d'Argent et d'Or du Nouveau Monde* (Paris, 1847, 8vo.) estimates the actual annual produce of the different countries of America at 614,641 kilogrammes of silver, of the value of 136,480,000 francs = £5,439,296, and of 14,934 kilog. of gold, of the value of 51,434,000 francs = £2,057,260; the value for both metals together being 187,914,000 francs = £7,516,556. The following table gives for each country the actual annual production:

	SILVER.		GOLD.	
	Weight in kilog.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilog.	Value in francs.
United States,	...	...	1,806	6,196,000
Mexico,	599,960	86,798,000	2,957	10,184,000
New Granada,	4,887	1,086,000	4,924	17,082,000
Peru,	113,135	23,146,000	708	2,439,000
Bolivia,	22,944	11,554,000	444	1,529,000
Brazil,	...	...	2,500	8,610,000
Chili,	92,292	7,457,000	1,071	3,689,000
Divers,	20,093	4,444,000	500	1,722,000
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>614,641</b>	<b>136,480,000</b>	<b>14,934</b>	<b>51,434,000</b>

"In the beginning of the present cent.," he says, "the whole annual produce was 796,000 kilogrammes of silver = 2,134,048 lbs. troy; and 14,100 kilog. of gold = 37,800 lbs. troy. We find, therefore, that the production of silver has decreased about a fourth, and that the production of gold has but slightly increased. The whole production of America since the discovery can be valued at 36 milliards 600 millions, of which 26 milliards 709 millions are in silver, and 9 milliards 890 millions in gold. In weight it is 129,169,000 kilog. = 222,168,900 lbs. troy in silver, and 2,877,690 kilog. = 7,714,745 lbs. troy in gold. The following table recapitulates the total production of the different countries of America since its discovery:

	SILVER.		GOLD.		Total sum.
	Kilog.	Fra. Mill.	Kilog.	Fra. Mill.	
U. States,	...	...	18,525	64	64
Mexico,	60,782,917	13,597	379,221	1,306	14,813
New Granada,	250,000	55	556,840	1,915	1,973
Peru,	58,163,962	12,925	337,725	1,163	14,088
Bolivia,	...	...	1,357,260	4,806	4,806
Brazil,	...	...	248,000	864	1,070
Chili,	973,000	216	...	...	...
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>129,168,979</b>	<b>26,793</b>	<b>2,877,611</b>	<b>9,911</b>	<b>36,614</b>
					<b>1,464,560,000</b>

**Inferior minerals.]** Copper is found in a native state, in the mines of Iguara, to the S of the Volcan-de-Jorillo; and at San Juan-Gustano in the prov. of New Mexico. These last are situated in N lat. 34°, in a mountain belonging to the Topian chain, to the W of the Rio-del-Norte. The copper produced here amounts to 20,000 mule loads annually, furnishing in recent years that article for the manufactures of nearly all the internal provinces. The intendancy of Guanajuato produced in 1862 nearly 9,200 arrobas, or 230,000 lbs. of copper, and 400 arrobas, or 10,000 lbs. of tin. Tin is also pretty abundant in the internal provinces, where a number of valuable mines of this mineral are situated in the vicinity of Durango. Iron mines are numerous in the intendancies of Valladolid, Zacatecas, and Guanajuato, but especially in the internal provs. Lead abounds in the calcareous mountains in the NE of the viceroyalty, especially in the district of Zimapan, near the Real-de-Cardonal and Lomo-del-Toro; near Linares, in New Leon, and in the prov. of Santander. At Lomo-del-Toro, masses of galena are wrought, of which some nests have yielded, in a short space of time, according to Soninschmidt, more than 124 quintals of lead. Zinc is found under the form of brown and black blende, in the veins of Ramos, Sombrerete, Zacatecas, and Tasco. Antimony is common to Catorce and Los-Pomelos. Arsenic occurs among the minerals of Zimapan, combined with sulphur, like orpiment. Cobalt has not yet been discovered; and manganese is much less abundant in Equinoctial America than in the temperate climates of the Old world. About 100 m. to the S of Chihuahua, an entire mountain of loadstone or magnetic iron is said to have been discovered, with strata as regular as those of limestone. Coal is very rare in New Spain. It has hitherto been discovered only in New M.; but it is probable that it may be found in the secondary lands extending to the N and NW of the Rio-Colorado, as well as in the plains of the latter, and those of San-Luis-Potosi. In general, coal and rock-salt abound to the W of the dividing ridge that separates the waters flowing into the Mississippi, or the Missouri, and the gulf of Mexico, from those that descend to the gulf of California. The muriate of soda is nowhere disseminated in masses or banks of considerable volume, and is merely disseminated in the clayey lands which surround the ridge of the Cordilleras: in this respect, the table-land of M. resembles that of Tibet or Tartary. The most abundant salt-mine of M. is the lake of the Penon-Blanco, in San-Luis-Potosi, of which the bottom is a bed of clay containing from 12 to 15 per cent. of the muriate of soda. Were it not, however, for its use in the amalgamation of silver minerals, the consumption of salt would be very inconsiderable in M., the Indians preferring their old custom of seasoning meat with chili or pimento. The Indian consumption of salt cannot be estimated at much more than half-a-kilogramme per head, or only one-twelfth of that in Europe.—These liquid minerals, amber and asphalt, occur in New Spain. Among the precious stones, a few diamonds are found, with amethysts and turquoises; but the list is imperfect, and perhaps erroneous. The mountains produce Jasper, marble, alabaster, magnets, steatite, jade, and talc. Fine marble is found within a few leagues of Puebla. One kind, that of Tecali, is translucent like the alabaster of Volterra and the *phenites* of the ancients. Near Santa-Fé a stratum of talc is found in some of the mountains, so large and flexible as to admit of being subdivided into thin cakes, of which the greater proportion of the houses in Santa-Fé, and all the villages to the N, have their window-lights made.

**Manufactures.]** Notwithstanding the long narrow and restrictive policy of the Spanish government, manufactures have made some progress in M. Their total annual value was estimated by Humboldt at 8,000,000 dollars, or £1,800,000. The city of Puebla contained, in 1802, 1,200 weavers of all sorts; and here, and in the vicinity of the city of Mexico, the printing of calicoes has made considerable progress within these few years. The oldest woollen manufactures of M. are those of Tezcuco, which were established in 1592 by Velasco. The woollen and cloth stuffs manufactured at this place in 1802 produced 600,000 d., or £135,000, of annual value, and consumed 63,900 arrobas or 1,613,500 lbs. of Mexican sheep wool. With the exception of a few cotton stuffs mixed with silk, the manufacture of silks is at present nearly annihilated in M. There are manufactures of hard soap at Puebla, Mexico, and Guadalupe. Nearly 200,000 arrobas, or 5,050,000 lbs. of this article, are annually made in the first of these cities. The abundance of soda on the high table-land is favourable to this manufacture. Glass factories for making materials for windows and common tumblers exist both at Puebla and in the city of Mexico. Paper-mills are wrought in one or two places. At one period there were 9 manufactures of delf-ware at Puebla, but they have declined much from the low price at which the stoneware and porcelain of



Europe is imported at Vera Cruz. The manufacture of gunpowder is extensive; and there are few countries in which a more considerable number of large pieces of wrought plate, vases, and church ornaments, are annually executed than at Mexico.—A long-protracted effort was made to establish cotton manufactories in the young republic. It is said that, in 1846, there existed in the state of M. 12 spinning-factories, with 30,156 spindles in full operation; in that of Puebla 21, with 35,672 spindles, and 12,240 in course of construction; in that of Vera Cruz 7, with 17,860 in operation, and 5,200 in course of construction; in that of Guadalajara 5, with 11,312 in operation, and 6,500 in course of construction; in that of Queretaro 2, with 7,620; in that of Durango 4, with 6,520; in that of Guanajuato 1, with 1,200; and in that of Sonora 1, with 1,000; in all, 53 spinning-factories with 135,280 spindles, of which 23,940 were in course of construction. The daily consumption of cotton was estimated at 39,755 lbs.; and the daily production of yarn now amounted to 35,780 lbs., of the value of 39,358 reals. The number of spinning-establishments in operation amounted to 8,753, employing 17,000 persons. The annual consumption amounted to 14,586,666 lbs., and as the indigenous production only amounted to 50,000 quintals, it follows that there was a deficiency of about 95,666 quintals. In order partly to cover this deficiency, the importation of 60,000 quintals was allowed at a duty of 6 reals per quintal. The carriage from Vera Cruz to Mexico—a distance traversed by muleteers in 18 to 20 days—was, at the period of these returns, from 18 to 22 reals per load of 4 quintals and upwards. The importation of cotton-yarn and cotton-tissues of not more than 30 threads woof, in a square of a quarter of an inch, was prohibited; but of course smuggling was carried on extensively, especially on the shores of the Pacific. A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Mexico under date June 29, 1845, says: "The mania of forcing manufactures has bitten the people here, as well as in Spain and Portugal. Imagine a country five times as large as France, with only 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 of inhabitants, two-thirds of whom are miserable Indians, undertaking to manufacture, while four-fifths of its soil are uncultivated,—a country without roads, cut up into districts which scarcely communicate with each other, but full of natural wealth, if there were only hands enough to cultivate it! The manufacturing experiments have not hitherto succeeded, though the most ample protection had been given them. Few have ventured beyond making a common calico worn by all classes, called *manta*, retailed at 1s. per vara or yard; but even that article could be delivered cheaper by the British manufacturer, if its introduction were not severely prohibited. Others have attempted common cloth and ordinary prints; but I do not hear that any factory has succeeded so as to compensate for capital and risk. The amount of protection given to native fabrics can be judged by the fact, that a bale of Manchester prints which stands on board at Vera Cruz at 130 d., cost, with import and inland duties, carriage, commission, charges on remittance, &c., 412 d. before delivery to the shopkeeper who is to retail them in the interior. And yet with this protection—so true are first principles—manufactures do not prosper in M., nor will they until the soil be fully cultivated, and there is a superabundance of labour."

*Commerce.*] The interior commerce of Mexico is of comparative insignificance, chiefly from the unequal distribution of the pop. over such an immense surface, and the absence of good roads and navigable rivers. On the 1st of February, 1846, a tariff came into operation, which, although it afforded some re-

lief to British trade, imposed duties still too high to bear competition with smuggling through Texas, or the waggon-trade to Santa-Fé. Every year a large convoy of waggons was formed at the town of Independence, about 3,000 m. from New York, to which goods were brought by rail and steam on the Missouri; and the journey was accomplished from Independence to Santa Fé in 60 to 70 days over the prairies, and through the midst of hostile Indians. At Santa Fé an arrangement was made with the Mexican custom-house for 750 d. duty on each waggon load; after which the journey was continued for 90 days more to the great fairs of San-Juan-de-los-Lagos, or of Aguas-Calientes. Large profits were made in this trade, as the duties paid at Santa-Fé, and all expenses of the road, did not amount to one-fourth of those which would have been charged at any sea-port of entry, and as coarse goods, which were prohibited in a regular way, could thus without difficulty be introduced. The writer in the *Times* already quoted says: "The village of San-Juan is situated in a small valley, in the state of Jalisco (or Guadalajara), and the fair annually held there in commemoration of the feast of La Purissima, on the 8th of December, has risen into great importance as a general mart for all the N departments of the republic, for all kinds of produce and manufactures as well foreign as domestic. There was an unusually large concourse of people upon the present occasion [December 1845], and I think that from 100,000 to 150,000 would not be an over-estimate of the number of souls crowded together into this small spot. All the principal foreign houses of Mexico, Tampico, Guanajuato, Zacatecas, and Guadalajara, were represented in the fair, and the value of the foreign goods brought here for sale must have exceeded a million sterling, although it is impossible to make the calculation with any great accuracy. The competition amongst the foreign merchants was likewise greater than usual; and this may be accounted for by their anxiety to get rid of their stocks before the new tariff comes into operation. There was a new feature in the fair this year,—the arrival of about 100 Yankee waggons loaded with the manufactures of the United States. They brought principally 'Domestics,' or white cotton goods. By an extraordinary regulation of the Mexican custom-house, these waggons are allowed to pass the frontier upon the payment of a fixed duty, viz., 750 d. per waggon, no matter what be their contents; and I heard it computed that this will not much exceed 10 per cent. of the duties which, upon an average, would be levied upon the same goods imported through Vera Cruz or Tampico; and the necessary consequence of this is, that British goods of this description stand no chance whatever in the competition." A new tariff, which came into operation on the 24th of December 1851, applies some important modifications to the former tariff. Compared with the restrictive commercial system pursued by M. till the late war with the United States, the new law is of a decidedly liberal character, inasmuch as it opens Mexican ports to a much greater extent to foreign trade, whilst duties which formerly operated as a complete prohibition are greatly reduced. It is to be hoped that the results of this step will be such as to encourage the government to proceed boldly in the path of free trade, notwithstanding its previous attachment to retrograde notions. The following are the chief provisions of the new law: Art. 1 enumerates the ports open both to foreign commerce and the coasting-trade, viz., Vera Cruz, Tampico, Matamoros, Campeachy, Sisal, and Tabasco, all on the gulf of Mexico; Acapulco, San-Blas, Huatalco, Manzanillo, and Mazatlan, upon the Pacific; Guaymas and Altata, on

the gulf of California. Art. 2 opens the following ports to the coasting-trade only, viz., the island of Carmen, Goazacoalcos, Alvarado, Tecoluta, Saute-comapan, Soto-la-Marina, and Tuxpan, on the gulf of Mexico; Bacalar, on the E coast of Yucatan; Tonolua, on the Pacific; Santa Maria, on the gulf of Tehuantepec; and La Paz, on the gulf of California. By art. 3, custom-houses are established upon the N frontier, at Matamoros, Camargo, and Presidio-del-Norte; and upon the S frontier, at Comitlan and Tuxtla Chico. Art. 4 provides for the establishment on the revenue-service of 6 new cutters and a steamer. Art. 7 authorizes the importation of fire-arms and weapons on payment of a duty of 4 d. per quintal. Art. 8 provides for the abolition of the 18th art. of the tariff law of 1846, the articles referred to in which will pay in future an *ad valorem* duty of 40 per cent.; some articles, however, are excepted from this new provision. According to art. 9 of the new law, the other import-duties fixed by the tariff of 1846 continue reduced to 60 per cent., conformably to decree of 3d May 1848. But article 10 stipulates that this reduction of the import-duties shall in no way apply to the minor duties, nor to the duties on average of 1 and 2 per cent. Art. 11 fixes the export duty on the precious metals as under: Gold, coined or worked, 2 per cent.; silver, coined, 3½ per cent.; silver, worked, having paid the duty of one-fifth, 4½ per cent.; pure silver, worked into ingots, on production of a certificate proving the payment of the duty of one-fifth, 4½ per cent. By art. 12, the tax upon silver for circulation is reduced to 2 per cent., which will be levied at the time the specie enters the Mexican ports.

The commerce of New Spain with the mother-country was carried on almost entirely through Vera Cruz. In time of peace, Humboldt estimated the annual value of the exports in that commerce at 22,000,000 d., and the annual value of the imports at 15,000,000 d. His statement of the articles is as follows:

## EXPORTS.

Gold and silver, in coin, bullion, and plate,	17,000,000 d.
Cochineal,	2,400,000
Sugar,	1,200,000
Flour,	300,000
Indigo, being the produce of Nueva Espana,	250,000
Salt meat and other provisions,	100,000
Tanned hides,	80,000
Sarsaparilla,	90,000
Vanilla,	60,000
Jalap,	60,000
Grap,	50,000
Logwood,	40,000
Pimento,	30,000
	<hr/> 21,780,000

## IMPORTS.

Bale goods, including woollens, cottons, linens, and silks,	9,200,000 d.
Paper,	1,000,000
Brandy,	1,000,000
Cacao,	1,080,000
Quicksilver,	650,000
Iron, manufactured and unmanufactured,	600,000
Steel,	200,000
Wine,	700,000
Bees-wax,	300,000
	<hr/> 14,600,000

This statement, however, must be considered as a mere approximation, which Humboldt founded on the average of several years of peace, and therefore more applicable to the period antecedent to 1796, when the war with England broke out. Neither does he include in this estimate the contraband trade on the sea-coast; and he has also omitted the indigo imported from Guatemala, and the cacao of Guayaquil, though exported from Vera Cruz, because these articles were not the produce of that kingdom.

"The commerce of M.," says the United States consul, Mr. Mayer, in his work on Mexico published in 1843, "has been diminishing for the last eighteen years. This is attributable to the continual revolutionary disturbances of the country, the decrease of the wealth of the people, and the pecuniary embarrassments to which most of the inhabitants have been subjected, by the non-payment of government loans, and of unfortunate investments. In 1832 and 1833, the revenue of the custom-house amounted to about 12,000,000 per ann. In 1839, on account of the French blockade, it fell to nearly 8,000,000; in 1840, it rose again to 7,000,000; and, in the following year, fell to little more than 5,000,000, which sum may be divided among the different ports as follows, to wit:

Vera Cruz,	2,529,802 d.
Tampico,	883,039
Matamoros,	312,403
Maratlan,	883,169
Guaymas,	55,814
Monterrey,	96,853
Acapulco,	17,182
San Blas,	208,845
	<hr/> 5,287,097

"This corresponds to about 12,300,000 dollars' value of importation annually divided (according to an estimate), in the following manner:

From England,	4,500,000 d.
" France,	3,000,000
" Hamburg,	1,500,000
" China,	1,000,000
" United States,	800,000
" Spain,	500,000
" Genoa and other ports,	1,000,000
	<hr/> 12,300,000

"The expense to the government, for the collection of this revenue, was 348,290 d. These statements are exclusive of the contraband-trade from the United States by Santa-Fé, and by the English and Americans by the sea-coasts. The exports from the whole republic (chiefly its own productions), may be rated as follows, viz.:

## EXPORTS.

## Amount.

		dollars.
Precious metals,	(Specie, through Vera Cruz,	4,000,000
	" Mazatlan and San Blas,	2,500,000
	" Silver and gold, through other ports,	5,000,000
	" Silver, through Tampico,	7,000,000
Cochineal, jalap, vanilla, sarsaparilla, and hides,		1,000,000
Sundries,		500,000
Total,		<hr/> 20,000,000

"From this estimate it appears that about 18,500,000 d. in the precious metals are exported annually from Mexico. The mines produce nearly 22,000,000 d. of silver, of which it is calculated that 12,000,000 d. are coined in the seven mints of the republic per ann. There is a difference of about 8,000,000 d. between the imports and exports, a large portion: all which is estimated to be covered by smuggling." The foreign commerce of M. employed 388 ships in 1824, viz.:

ARRIVED		SAILED	
From National ports,	39	For National ports,	40
" America,	76	" America,	100
" Europe,	61	" Europe,	32
	<hr/> 176		<hr/> 212

The total declared value of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported from the United Kingdom to M., between the years 1821 and 1849, was as follows:

1821,	£1,076	1836,	£254,822
1822,	89,360	1837,	520,290
1823,	267,418	1838,	439,776
1824,	391,997	1839,	660,170
1825,	1,942,679	1840,	468,329
1826,	471,236	1841,	454,901

1827, . . . . .	692,800	1842, . . . . .	374,969
1828, . . . . .	307,029	1843, . . . . .	587,337
1829, . . . . .	308,562	1844, . . . . .	494,095
1830, . . . . .	978,441	1845, . . . . .	547,130
1831, . . . . .	728,358	1846, . . . . .	303,685
1832, . . . . .	129,821	1847, . . . . .	100,682
1833, . . . . .	421,487	1848, . . . . .	945,937
1834, . . . . .	439,610	1849, . . . . .	779,059
1835, . . . . .	402,820	1850, . . . . .	451,820

These exports consisted chiefly of cotton, silk, and linen goods, iron, paper, quicksilver, spirits, and wines. The total declared value of the cotton goods exported from Great Britain to M. in 1849 was £362,774; in 1850, 164,811; of woollen goods, in 1849, £117,339; in 1850, £47,998.

The amount of trade between M. and the United States was as follows in the years noted:

	Imports.	Exports.
1844, . . . . .	1,794,833 d.	2,387,092 d.
1845, . . . . .	1,152,331	1,702,936
1846, . . . . .	1,531,180	1,896,621
1847, . . . . .	692,428	746,818

Since the war with the United States, the trade of M. has taken a new direction, and given importance to places comparatively unknown, while the former commercial cities are nearly deserted. Thus, the exports by the way of the Rio Grande must exceed 6,000,000 d., principally in silver; and the imports are of equal value, chiefly in prohibited articles, such as coarse cotton, prints, &c. These are introduced by Americans illegally, and by bribing the custom-house officers, and the silver is exported without paying the export duty. Some of the goods so introduced are actually sold in the city of Mexico. In consequence Tampico has declined in importance, and has become almost abandoned as a port-of-entry. The arrivals and departures from Vera Cruz have been exceeded in number and regularity by those at Acapulco. Exchange, which has always been in favour of the city of Mexico from the interior, has now turned, so that Acapulco, San-Blas, Mazatlan, and Zanteacas are considered more eligible points for funds. Hence Tampico, Vera Cruz, and the capital are declining in importance; but whenever the reforms are effected, and the contraband trade checked, they will once more be in the ascendant. Sufficient evidence exists that the commerce of M. is worthy of attention, and may be extended to an almost unlimited extent; and as 25 per cent. of the customs revenue goes directly to make up the dividend on the English debt, the subjoined statement of the produce of the several custom-houses in 1850 is interesting:

## I. MARITIME IMPORT DUTIES.

Acapulco, . . . . .	25,395 d.
Campeche, . . . . .	247,085
Guaymas, . . . . .	64,498
Manzanillo, . . . . .	118,270
Matamoras, . . . . .	65,926
Mazatlan, . . . . .	277,060
San Blas, . . . . .	115,919
Tampico, . . . . .	621,557
Sisal, . . . . .	550
Tabasco, . . . . .	129,298
Vera Cruz, . . . . .	2,729,731

## II. FRONTIER DUTIES.

Camargo, . . . . .	63,682
Comitan, . . . . .	362
Paso-del-Norte, . . . . .	61,584
Presidio-del-Norte, . . . . .	1,069
Export duties, . . . . .	4,541,882
Total, . . . . .	4,985,815 d.

The revenue is known to have gone on steadily increasing in the ports of the Pacific since 1850, and as the fourth-part of the above sum is 1,246,454 d., whilst the total amount required for the punctual discharge of the dividends is only 1,500,000 d., addi-

tional disgrace will be reflected upon the government should they fail to keep faith with the creditors at the reduced rate of interest.

*Aboriginal inhabitants.* If we may judge from the number of languages spoken in South and Central America, the number of native tribes must be great. Of these languages—which exceed twenty in number—the Mexican or Aztec, spoken by the Toltecs, Chichimecs, Acolhuas, Nahuatlans, and Aztecs, is the most widely diffused, extending from 87° N lat. as far S as the lake of Nicaragua, or a distance of more than 1,200 m. The other languages, indicating as many different tribes, are the Otomite, Tarasque, Zapotec, Mixteco, Maye or Yucatan, Totonac, Popoluc, Matlazing, Haaste, Mixed, Caquiqui, Tarantur, Tepehuan, and the Cora. Some of these languages, it is affirmed, are as different from each other as Greek is from German; or French from Polish; and it is generally believed that the Toltecs, Chichimecs, Acolhuas, Nahuatlans, and Aztecs are totally distinct races from the other native tribes, and to be of Asiatic origin. Of these five tribes, which are subdivided into several others, the Toltecs first made their appearance to the E of the city of Mexico, in 648. They said that they had been expelled from a country lying to the NW of the Rio-Gila, and called by them Huehuetlapallan. The date of their emigration is fixed in the Mexican paintings—which describe year by year the events of this migration—at 544 of our era, or 164 years before their settlement in M.; and it is very remarkable that this epoch of 544, corresponds with the ruin of the dynasty of Tsin in China, which caused such commotions among the nations of Eastern Asia. About 160 years after the Toltecs had left Huehuetlapallan, the Chichimecs took possession of it. These were a more rude and unpolished tribe than the Toltecs, and came from an unknown country called by them Amaque Mecan, far to the N of Huehuetlapallan, where they had resided for a long time. They employed eighteen months in their migration to the ancient seat of the Toltecs. After remaining five centuries in Huehuetlapallan, they migrated to the south, and appearing in M., in 1170, mingled with the Toltecs. The Nahuatlans made their first appearance in M. from the north, in 1196. In 1160, the Aztecs, the immediate progenitors of the Mexicans, dwelt in a country called Aztlan, to the N of the Californian gulf. How far to the north of this parallel Aztlan lay, it is impossible to determine, but we are certain that it must have lain to the N of the Rio-Colorado of California. It is probable that the original abode of the Aztecs or Aztlan lay beyond Nootka-sound, between it and Cook's river, especially under the 57th degree of N lat. In Norfolk bay and New Cornwall, where the natives have a strong predilection for hieroglyphical paintings like the Mexicans. After a migration of 56 years, distinguished into three grand periods, the Aztecs arrived in the valley of M. in 1216. The first stage of their migration was to the S of the Rio-Nabojia in 35° N lat. The second, to the S of the Rio-Gila in N lat. 33° 30', where the ruins of an ancient city, called Las-Casas-Grandes by the Spaniards, was discovered, in 1773, in the midst of a vast and beautiful plain, about a league to the S of the Gila. These ruins occupy a space of 3 sq. m.; and the whole surrounding plain is filled with fragments of stoneware, beautifully painted in red, white, and blue. Their third station was in the vicinity of Yanoes in New Biscay. They moved hence to Huecocolhuacan or Culeacan, where the confederation, originally composed of six tribes, was abandoned by five of them. In 1216 the Aztecs arrived at Zumpango, a considerable city in the vale of Mexico; but restless and dissatisfied with their condition, they still migrated from place to place along the lake of Texcoco. In 1245 they arrived at Chapultepec, within 2 m. of the future site of the city of Mexico. Hence they removed to a group of islands to the ENE of Chapultepec, in the W end of the lake, in obedience to an order of the oracle of Aztlan. An ancient tradition preserved amongst them bore, that the limit, or final term of their migration, was to be a place where they should find an eagle sitting on the top of a nopal shrub, the roots of which penetrated the crevices of a rock: this nopal was seen by the Aztecs, on a small island, which served for a foundation to the Teocalli, or the house of their god, afterwards called by the Spaniards the great temple of Mexitli. In 1825, 165 years after their migration from Aztlan, and 169 years from their first appearance in the vale of Mexico. With the building of this rude temple commenced the foundation of the city of Mexico, signifying in the Aztec language, 'the habitation of the God of War'; and with it also commenced the dynasty of the Mexican kings.

In the northern provs., as New Biscay, Sonora, and New Mexico, there were few inhabitants in the 16th cent.; and these not agricultural tribes, as the Toltecs and Aztecs, but hunters and shepherds. They withdrew farther to the north as the European conquerors advanced in that direction, yielding to them their uncultivated savannas which served for pasture to the buffaloes, just in the same manner as the Indians in the United States have been gradually driven westward. While the hunting and pastoral tribes retreated beyond the Gila, towards the Colorado, and the inaccessible mountains which partly divide and partly bound New Mexico, the Aztec colonists patiently endured the cruel treatment of their conquerors rather than quit the soil which their fathers had cultivated. Dr. Pickering who assigns to the Malay race not only the greater proportion of the pop. of the islands in the Pacific, but also the native pop. of the western half of M. from the bay of San Francisco to that of Tehuantepec, but whose theory is not wholly borne out by his reasoning on the point, says: "The presence of two aboriginal races in Mexico



recalls some seeming coincidences in the ancient history of that country. It is stated of the Toltecas, the predecessors of the Aztecas, that they 'were acquainted with agriculture, manufactures, the working of metals, and various other arts of civilization, and even that they introduced the cultivation of maize and cotton.' Now the art of cultivation could not have been derived from Oregon, where the idea was aboriginally absent; a state of things connected apparently with the high northern source of the Mongolian pop. of America, the climate precluding agriculture in the parent countries. If then, this art was introduced from abroad into America, it must have arrived by a more southern route, and, to all appearance, through the medium of the Malay race. I would remark, further, that the route must have been yet south of San Francisco, where I observed only one, and that a doubtful instance, of aboriginal agriculture.—Another remarkable tradition, mentioned by Humboldt as common both to the Mexicans and to the widely-separated Mayas of Bogota, attributes the 'origin of their civilization to a man having a long beard.' Now, a long beard is precisely a circumstance that would be apt to make a lasting impression among a beardless people, and at the same time is one which they would not be likely to invent; further, it is not inconsistent with the physical character of the Malay race. At Singapore I was reminded of this tradition by the continual recurrence of long-bearded masks on the Chinese stage.—The influence of a second physical race might be expected to extend beyond its precise geographical limits; and I will here note the occurrence in America of some additional Malay analogies. A variety of Polynesian customs are mentioned in the accounts of the native tribes of Panama and Central America, and even some coincidences in the names of places around the Mexican and Caribbean seas. Two distinct styles of costume may be recognised in paintings of aboriginal Americans; and the cincture and wreath of upright feathers are not found among the northern tribes. The American languages are also susceptible of geographical division; being on the one hand soft, with principally the vowel termination; and on the other harsh, with terminal consonants: a point that acquires interest from the fact, that no portion of the Malay race has hitherto been found using a harsh language.

**Present population.]** The modern pop. of M. may be divided into 5 classes, namely: 1st, Spaniards born in Old Spain; 2d, The descendants of Europeans without any mixture of African or Indian blood; 3d, The different races of Mulattoes and Mestizoes, or the issue of the crossings of the European, Indian, and African blood; 4th, The Indigenes, or American natives; 5th, The imported African slaves. The mixed breeds, or 3d class, may be subdivided into 3 classes, namely: 1st, Mestizoes, descended of Whites and Indians; 2d, Mulattoes, the offspring of Whites and Negroes; 3d, Zambos, the issue of Negroes and Indians. The first two classes constitute the Whites; the 3d class, with its three subdivisions, comprises the people of colour; the copper-coloured race are composed in the fourth, and the blacks in the 5th class. Among those classes it may readily be conjectured that the largest will be the Indians in the interior, amidst the woods and along the borders of rivers and lakes; while the Spanish Mexicans will be the most numerous in all cities and seaports. All foreigners naturally flock to the more populous, orderly, and commercial cities and towns, rather than risk their lives, property, or speculations among the wild and lawless portions of the inhabitants; and thus the great majority of those who constitute the native residents of the capital city, of Puebla, Jalapa, &c., and even the sea-ports of Vera-Cruz and Alvarado, are of the latter class. The number of the Indians, or country-people, is gradually but continually diminishing by intermarriage with the townfolk of their several vicinities. The intermarriage also of the Mexican Spaniards has rendered their class the smallest; and the same circumstance, as it regularly merges them into the others, will probably always keep it the smallest.—If it be a matter of no small difficulty to ascertain with accuracy the actual pop. of those states in which politico-economical science has made the greatest progress, the difficulty is mightily increased in M., where the germ of political science has hardly begun to develop itself. We need not be surprised, therefore, that no enumeration of the inhabitants is contained in the Mexican registers previous to 1794; and that the most erroneous ideas were long entertained on this

subject, even by those who were apparently best qualified to determine the problem. In 1793, an enumeration of the whole pop., exclusive of that of Guatemala, was undertaken by the viceroy, Count de Revellagigedo; but he was unable to complete his undertaking, from the powerful obstacles to be overcome in a country where those employed are but little skilled in such statistical researches. Hence the enumeration was not completed in the intendancies of Guadalajara and Vera Cruz, and the prov. of Cohahuila. The following table presents a statement of the pop. of New Spain, from the notices transmitted by the intendants and governors of provinces to the viceroy, previous to May 1794:

Intendancies.	Pop.	Capitals.	Pop.
Mexico, . . . . .	1,162,886	Mexico, . . . . .	112,926
Puebla, . . . . .	566,443	Puebla, . . . . .	52,717
Tlascala, . . . . .	59,177	Tlascala, . . . . .	3,357
Oaxaca, . . . . .	411,366	Oaxaca, . . . . .	19,069
Valladolid, . . . . .	289,314	Valladolid, . . . . .	17,093
Guanajuato, . . . . .	397,924	Guanajuato, . . . . .	32,098
San-Luis-Potosi, . . . . .	242,280	San-Luis-Potosi, . . . . .	8,571
Zacatecas, . . . . .	118,027	Zacatecas, . . . . .	25,495
Durango, . . . . .	122,506	Durango, . . . . .	11,027
Sonora, . . . . .	92,306		
Nuevo Mexico, . . . . .	36,963		
Two Californias, . . . . .	12,006		
Yucatan, . . . . .	358,761	Merina, . . . . .	28,392

Total pop. of the above  
intendancies, . . . . . 3,865,529

The pop. of the intendancies of Guadalajara and Vera Cruz, with the prov. of Cohahuila, was thus estimated by the viceroy:

Guadalajara, . . . . .	465,000
Vera Cruz, . . . . .	120,000
Cohahuila, . . . . .	13,000
	618,000

Approximate result of the enumeration in 1793, . . . . . 4,483,529

The above table must exhibit the minimum of the pop.; for from fear of an increase of taxes, every head of a family endeavoured to diminish the number of persons in his house; while others withdrew themselves from their several districts till the enumeration was finished. These and other circumstances might warrant the addition of at least a sixth or seventh part to the sum total; and the pop. of all New Spain was therefore estimated by the government at 5,200,000. The actual census has never since been renewed; but Humboldt supposes that the pop. must have increased to at least 5,900,000 in 1803, and to 6,500,000 in 1808. The reasons of this rapid increase he drew from the augmentation of the tithes, which had doubled in less than 24 years preceding 1803,—from the increase of the Indian capitulation, and of the duties on consumption,—the progress of agriculture and civilization,—the number of newly-constructed houses in every part of the table-land,—and finally from the excess of births above the deaths. The following table exhibits Humboldt's estimate of the pop. in 1803, with the number of inhabitants to every sq. m.:

#### I. VICEROYALTY OF MEXICO PROPER.

Intendancies.	Area in sq. m.	Pop.	Inh. to sq. m.
1. Mexico, . . . . .	45,440	1,511,000	314
2. La Puebla, . . . . .	20,666.2	813,000	394
3. Vera Cruz, . . . . .	51,747.1	156,000	3
4. Oaxaca, . . . . .	84,693.1	594,800	15.1-16
5. Merida, . . . . .	45,823.1	405,800	104
6. Valladolid, . . . . .	25,486	476,400	184
7. Guadalajara, . . . . .	74,260.2	630,500	84
8. Zacatecas, . . . . .	18,054.2	153,300	84
9. Guanajuato, . . . . .	6,984	517,300	4
10. San-Luis-Potosi, . . . . .	18,266.1	230,000	125.6
	320,723	5,488,100	

#### II. INTERNAL PROVINCES.

##### a. Western Internal provinces:

1. Sonora, . . . . .	146,764	121,400
2. Durango, . . . . .	129,426	100,700

3. New Mexico,	43,769	40,200
4. Californias,	72,498	24,600
	392,452	345,900
b. Eastern Internal provinces:		
1. Coahuilla,	52,392	16,900
2. Texas,	83,902	21,000
3. Santander,	39,816	38,000
4. New Leon,	20,094	29,000
	196,204	104,900

According to Pike's estimate, the pop. of the internal provinces, independent of the Californias, was 635,000 souls, exceeding Humboldt's estimate by 184,200 souls; and as he was upon the spot, his estimate is perhaps more correct. Navarro estimated the total pop. of the M. republic in 1825 at 6,122,354, composed of 1,097,029 Spaniards or Creoles, 3,676,231 Indians, and 1,338,706 of divers castes; but this statement is far below Balbi's, which gives to M., exclusive of Guatemala, 7,500,000 souls. In the long continued struggle for independence, of 15 years, the pop. must have suffered severely, and a very great diminution must have taken place. In the absence of all documents, if the carnage occasioned by the civil war be taken into account, we have little or no scruple in admitting the truth of Navarro's statement, and that the pop. in 1825 was really less than in 1808, when it was estimated at 6,500,000 souls by Humboldt.

Consul Mayer says, that since 1830 the pop. of the republic has been dreadfully ravaged by small-pox, measles, and cholera. In the capital alone, it is estimated that about 5,000 died of the first-named of these diseases, 2,000 of the second, and from 15,000 to 20,000 of the third. The mortality must have been in a corresponding ratio throughout the territory. "I am, however," he adds, "by no means satisfied that the estimates of both Poinsett and Burkhardt are not too high; yet, assuming the statements of 1842 and of 1793 to be nearly accurate, we find in 49 years an increase of only 1,774,111 in the entire pop. Again, if we assume the pop. to have been 6,000,000 in 1824—the year, in fact, of the establishment of the republic—we find that in the course of 18 years of liberty and independence, the increase has not been greater than 1,044,140. In the United States of America, with only 650,000 more of sq. m. of territory now, and not so large a space at the achievement of our independence, the increase of our pop. during the first 20 years of freedom cannot have been less than two millions and a half, while in the course of the last 30 years it has averaged an increase of rather more than 33 per cent. every 10. The several castes and classes of Mexicans may," adds Consul Mayer, "be rated in the following manner:

Indians,	4,000,000
Whites,	1,000,000
Negroes,	6,000
All other castes, such as Zambos, Mestizos,	
Mulattoes, &c.,	2,009,509
	7,015,509"

The civilized Indians in the prov. of New M. compose 24 tribes. In the provs. of Sonora and Cinaloa, the whole number of civilized and tributary Indians does not amount to 2,100 souls. But besides the native tribes enumerated in the M. pop., and pursuing agricultural and mechanical employments, there are many savage and independent tribes scattered throughout the N. E. and NW parts of the internal provs., some keeping the Spaniards in a state of constant alarm, others living on a friendly footing with them, though always at war with each other. The pure Indians, notwithstanding the vicissitudes and strange admixtures to which their country has been subject, still retain very much of the aboriginal

character. The young men and women are for the most part rather under the middle height, of beautifully regular features, with a deportment of natural grace. The women often have an air of sweet dignity and refinement, though how they should have learned it in the wild woods, among men as barefooted as themselves, would puzzle the understanding of this side of the tropic of Cancer. Their voices are generally shrill, but sweet-toned, persuasive, and often pathetic. They are of a clear delicate complexion of the richest copper colour; their limbs rather slight, and more active than strong. Of a high enthusiastic spirit, they are ready in a moment to throw their lives away in any cause which excites their passions. The sword or the knife are drawn and used in an ordinary quarrel, with far less hesitation than the hand is clenched in pugilistic England. Very many of the young men, and the majority of the old, have their faces, breasts, and shoulders deeply seamed and scarred, from gashes gained by those quarrels.

The Whites, under the two denominations of Spaniards and Creoles, occupy the first place in the scale of Mexican society, in respect of political importance, wealth, and information, though in numbers they do not amount to above one-half of the mixed breed of Spanish-American pop. Of these two classes of Whites; the Spaniards, previous to the revolution, engrossed the whole political power, to the exclusion of the Creoles; and this political inequality, of course, produced a deep-rooted enmity on the part of the Creoles, and an overbearing haughtiness on the part of their oppressors. As long, indeed, as the Creoles considered that their security against the other classes of the pop., such as the Indians and the mixed breeds, depended on making common cause with the Europeans, the court of Madrid was safe enough in its system of exclusion and oppression; and to this principle Humboldt ascribes very satisfactorily the passiveness and long forbearance of the Creoles. But after the peace of 1783, which gave independence to the Anglo-Americans, the common language of a Creole became: "I am not a Spaniard, I am an American,"—a declaration sufficiently ominous, and an indication of the growing self-importance of the Creoles. By a succession of legislative measures, commenced in 1827, the entire expatriation of the Spanish residents has been effected by the class over whom they so long unjustly tyrannized. The Creoles are naturally acute, and have a happy aptitude for all arts and sciences, though education is much neglected amongst them. It is in M. chiefly that we meet with well-informed Creoles; but there is a remarkable contrast between the people in the interior provs. and the enlightened classes of the capital. As the Whites form the only class who possess any political importance and intellectual cultivation, they are also the only class who possess great wealth. Wealth is unhappily more unequally distributed in M. than in all the other Spanish colonies put together, being concentrated in the hands of a few opulent families and successful mining-speculators.

*Languages.* Of the various languages spoken throughout New Spain, the Mexican is the chief. The grammars and dictionaries which have been published of this language show it to differ essentially from the Peruvian. The words frequently end in *tl*, and are besides of a surprising and unpronounceable length, resembling in this respect the languages of the North American savages, and some of the African dialects, but strongly contrasted with those of Asia, in which the most polished, as the Chinese, are monosyllabic. According to Clavigero, the Mexican tongue wants the consonants *b*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *r*, and *s*—in this respect

strictly coinciding with the Peruvian language, except that the latter, instead of the *s*, is said to want the *z*. Some of the Mexican words are 16 syllables in length, and are exceedingly harsh and unpleasant to the ear.—The Spanish colonists being chiefly of Andalusian descent, the Spanish language is spoken with an accent disagreeable to a Castilian ear, and is much corrupted in New Spain, an infinity of foreign expressions having been adopted, and a new meaning given to many words and phrases.

*State of education.*] The education of the lower classes has been utterly neglected in M.; though instructed in some of the ritual observances of Catholicism, yet this instruction seldom goes farther than to teach them to adore the Virgin, and to make the sign of the cross; whilst in the Indian villages, ignorance is carefully fostered, and even the ancient idolatry frequently winked at by their caziques. "A respectable and aged resident of M.," says Consul Mayer, "who is remarkable for the extent and accuracy of his observations, estimates that of the former (or Negroes and Indians) but 2 per cent. can read and write, while of the latter, at a liberal estimate, but about 20 per cent. If we take this computation to be correct,—as I believe from my own observation it is,—and using the estimate of the decree of 1842 for the basis of the pop., we shall have:

Of Indians and Negroes who can read,	80,120
Of Whites and all others,	607,628
<hr/>	
Total able to read and write out of a pop. of 7,000,000,	687,748

This would appear to be a startling fact in a republic the basis of whose safety is the capacity of the people for an intellectual self-government. Let us, however, carry this calculation a little further. If we suppose that out of the 1,000,000 of Whites, 500,000, or the half only, are males, and of that half million, but 20 per cent., or but 100,000 can read and write, we will no longer be surprised that a pop. of more than seven millions has been hitherto controlled by a handful of men, or that, with the small means of improvement afforded to the few who can read, the selfish natures of the superior classes, who wield the physical and intellectual forces of the nation, have forced the masses to become little more than the slaves of those whose wit gives them the talent of control." The method of study has been reformed in the seminaries of M.; and in place of scholastic subtleties, the belles lettres and other useful studies begin to be substituted. Reading is become an article of request among the higher classes of Creoles; and a number of modern scientific institutions have been lately formed at M. "Most of the people in the cities," says a recent traveller, "can read and write. I would not be understood as including the *leperos*; but I have frequently remarked men clothed in the garb of extreme poverty, reading the gazettes in the street. Of these there are three published every other day in the week, which are sold for 12½ cents a-piece; and pamphlets and loose sheets are hawked about and sold at a reasonable rate. There are several booksellers' shops, which are but scantily supplied with books. The booksellers have hitherto laboured under all the disadvantages of the prohibitory system of the Roman Catholic church, but are now endeavouring to furnish themselves with the best modern works. The few books to be found in the shops are extravagantly dear. There are several valuable private libraries; and many Creole gentlemen, who have visited Europe, have a taste both for literature and the fine arts. The children of the nobility and wealthy inhabitants are principally taught at home. The places of public instruction in the greatest repute are the Seminario Conciliar and San Ildefonso,

both in the cap."—The university of M. was founded in 1551, under the denomination of the royal and pontifical university. There have been as many as 200 students at one time in this institution. A public library, founded about 70 years since for the use of the university, is well-stocked with books of old scholastic theology; but it would be in vain to expect in this library new editions of the classics, or new works in science and philosophy. There are several other colleges in M., as one founded by the archbishop of Guadalajara; a seminary founded by the archbishop of M. in 1682, according to the exact method ordered by the council of Trent; the college of St. John de Lateran; and 5 colleges formerly belonging to the Jesuits. A Minería, or college of mines, was instituted some years ago, where youth were instructed not only in that science, but in other important branches of education; but the funds of this excellent institution have been diverted to other purposes. Another recent institution, which has shared the same fate, was the academy of the three arts of architecture, sculpture, and painting.

*Religion and ecclesiastical affairs.*] Roman Catholicism, in its most rigid form, is established in M. The constitution of 1847 declares that "the religion of the M. nation is and will be perpetually the Catholic Apostolic and Roman. The nation protects it by wise and just laws, and prohibits the exercise of any other." The ecclesiastical government is under the jurisdiction of 1 archbishop, and 8 bishops. The clergy were estimated by Humboldt at 10,000, the half of whom were regulars; but including lay brethren and sisters at 14,000. The annual revenue of the bishops collectively, amounted, previous to the revolution, to 539,000 d., or £121,225; thus:

Archbishop of Mexico,	190,000 d.	£29,250
Bishop of La Puebla,	110,000	24,750
" Valladolid,	100,000	22,500
" Guadalajara,	90,000	20,250
" Durango,	35,000	7,875
" Monterey,	30,000	6,750
" Yucatan,	20,000	4,500
" Oaxaca,	18,000	4,050
" Sonora,	6,000	1,350

The inequality of fortune, so conspicuous in New Spain, is still more conspicuous among the clergy,—many of the lower orders of whom, in the archb. of M., do not possess incomes exceeding £25 annually. The chapter of the Mexican cathedral contains 26 ecclesiastics. The dean has 10,000 d., the canons from 7,000 to 9,000 d., and the lesser canons from 2,000 to 4,000 d. annually.—Mayer estimates the number of convents at 58, containing about 2,000 nuns, and possessing 1,700 estates, yielding a revenue of 560,000 d.

The inferior clergy of New Spain are divided into *curas*, *doctrineros*, and *missionarios*. The first are parish-priests in those parts of the country where the Spaniards have settled. The second have the charge of the Indian districts subjected to the government, and living under its protection. The third are employed in instructing and converting the fiercer tribes, which disdain subjection to the Spaniards, and live in remote or inaccessible regions into which Spanish arms have not yet penetrated. Of these three orders, the first are the best paid, some curacies being worth many thousand dollars, and many of the curates run a successful career of ambition, and become deans, prebends, and bishops. Of these three orders, the first are what are denominated in the Catholic nomenclature seculars; and the two last regulars, who are not under the control of any diocesan, and belong to the four mendicant orders of monks. The secular clergy, who number about 3,500, have produced hitherto no men of talents or erudition; it is to the regulars alone that the Americans, whether Creoles



or natives, are indebted for any portion of knowledge which they possess: and it is to them only that we are indebted for any information respecting the climate and productions of Spanish America, and the former and present state of the natives. The Romish ritual appears in all its pomp in New Spain. However glaring may be the worship of continental Europe, it is of a feeble hue compared with Mexican ceremonial. The churches and convents also are magnificently built and richly adorned; and on high festivals the display of gold, silver, and precious stones is such as to exceed European conceptions. In January 1847 the vice-president, Gomez Farias, succeeded in carrying through congress a law authorizing the sale of ecclesiastical property to produce 15,000,000 d. for the purpose of prosecuting the war against the United States. It has been the practice of the Mexican clergy to place money at interest on real estate. Most of the large properties in this country are so burdened, and as the church was an indulgent creditor it became necessary when appropriating those mortgages to avoid a collision with the debtors, who, if inconvenienced by the transfer of their debts to the hands of government, might be disposed to make common cause with the clergy and resist the decree. The law was therefore so framed as to offer strong inducements to the debtors themselves to redeem their mortgages, but very little to speculators who might be inclined to purchase them. One consequence of these scruples was to nullify the law in a great measure as respects its avowed object. The 15,000,000 d. could not be raised in this way without great difficulty and delay; but this was a secondary consideration with Gomez Farias. His object was to break down that once powerful corporation, the Mexican clergy, in whose wealth, influence, and conservative tendencies his political theories had ever found formidable obstacles.

*Government.*] The whole of Spanish North America was originally under the administration of one governor denominated the Viceroy of Mexico, whose power was afterwards divided among four personages,—namely, the viceroy of Mexico, the captain-general of Guatemala, and two commandants-general of the Internal provinces. The three latter, indeed, did not enjoy the title of viceroys, or hold the appointments belonging to that rank, but their jurisdictions were entirely independent of that of the viceroy. The salary attached to the office of viceroy of M. was 60,000 d., or £13,000 sterling, annually; besides 50,000 d. for his table, or £24,750 in all. He had moreover various means of increasing his income; and instances have occurred, of viceroys, who, in the course of their administration—usually not exceeding five years—contrived to amass upwards of £330,000 sterling!

The republic of M. has adopted the constitution of the North American union as its general model. The government is federal; and the republic was at first entitled the United Mexican states. Like the North American union, the M. states possess a general legislative, a general executive, and a general judicial power, together with a legislative, executive, and judicial power for each state; but, as in other Spanish-American countries, the government has alternated between federalism and centralization. The general or federal legislature consists, as in North America, of a house-of-deputies and a senate. The election of the former takes place every two years. The basis of the nomination of deputies is the extent of pop. A deputy is elected for every 70,000 souls, or for any fraction of that number which shall exceed 35,000. A deputy must be 30 years of age, and possessed of an income of 1,200 d. For proportioning the number of deputies over the

union, a census of the pop. was to be made every ten years. The senate is composed of 63 members, two-thirds of whom are elected by the departmental authorities, and one-third by the chamber-of-deputies, the president, and the supreme court of justice. They receive an annual salary of £700, besides travelling expenses. The deputies are at present [1852] 140 in number, and are each paid £600 a-year, besides travelling expenses. The meeting of the two bodies of deputies and senators is called 'the General congress.' The executive power of the federation is vested in a single person, called the President of the United Mexican states. This supreme magistrate is elected by the separate state-legislatures, each of which nominates two candidates for the presidency—one of whom at least shall not belong to the state which makes the return. The names of these candidates are transmitted to the general congress, which declares the candidate who unites in his person the greatest number of votes president. The duration of the president's functions is limited to five years. A vice-president was elected in the same manner, and for the same term, to supply the president's place, if by physical inability, or any other cause, he should be prevented from discharging the duties of his office; but this office has latterly been abolished, and the chief-justice of the supreme court is to act as vice-president. The powers and prerogatives of the president are similar to those of the same magistrate in the North American union. He appoints or removes the secretaries of state; he appoints to posts in the army and navy; he disposes of the armed force by sea and land, in peace or war, by the advice of the congress; he convokes the legislative bodies to an extraordinary session; he provides that justice be duly administered; he promulgates the acts of congress, and does other acts of supreme power. During the recess of congress, the supreme magistrate is provided with a council, consisting of half the members of the senate, or of a councillor for every state of the union. The four ministers of finance, war, justice, and foreign affairs, have each £1,200 per annum. The judicial power of the federation resides in a supreme tribunal of justice, and in departmental tribunals. The first consists of 11 members, distributed into three halls or chambers. The members of this supreme tribunal are elected, like the president, by a majority of votes of the different state-legislatures. The duties of this supreme tribunal are,—to take cognizance of the differences which may arise between the separate states of the federation, or between the authorities of one state and the subjects of another; to settle disputes which may spring up respecting the construction of the acts of the supreme government; to decide on the jurisdiction of the separate tribunals of the union; and to judge, without appeal, in the trial of criminal cases affecting senators, deputies, ambassadors, consuls, or any of the higher officers of the supreme government. Each of the state-governments moves uncontrolled within its own sphere, but all are supposed to partake of the movement and obey the influence of the general federative system. By the 2d title of the revised constitution of 1843, slavery is abolished in M.; and by the 3d title, all born within the Mexican territory, or beyond it of a Mexican father, and all who were in M. in 1821, or natives of Central America when it belonged to M., and who have since then resided in M., are declared citizens.

*Revenue.*] The net or clear revenue of New Spain, exclusive of Guatemala, was estimated at 20,000,000 d., or £4,500,000, of which 6,000,000 d., or £1,350,000, were annually sent to Spain, and 14,000,000 d., or £3,150,000 absorbed in government-expenses. The

following tables will give the reader a view of the progressive increase of the public revenue of New Spain since the commencement of the 18th cent.:

1712	3,068,400 d. =	£890,390
1763	5,703,876	1,383,822
1764	5,901,706	1,327,883
1765	6,141,981	1,381,945
1766	6,538,941	1,471,261
1767	6,561,316	1,476,296
Total from 1763 to 1767	30,849,820	6,941,209
Average of these 5 years	6,169,964	1,388,241
ANNUAL AVERAGE.		
From 1767 to 1769	8,000,000	1,800,000
... 1773 to 1776	12,000,000	2,700,000
... 1777 to 1779	14,500,000	3,262,500
... 1780 to 1784	18,176,479	4,089,707
In 1785	18,770,000	4,223,280
... 1789	19,044,000	4,284,900
... 1792	19,521,698	4,392,282
... 1802	20,200,000	4,545,000

The present revenue of M. is derived from a variety of sources; the customs, the per centage on mineral products, licenses, special duties, transit and export duties, the tobacco monopoly, forced loans and contributions, voluntary and involuntary, and others, which are alike onerous and burthensome on the people, who derive no real advantage from the immense sums collected and disbursed.

The following exhibits the total receipts into the treasury from 1824 to 1844,—a period of 20 years:

For the fiscal year 1824	9,770,371 d.
... 8 months 1825	9,720,771
From Sept. 1st 1825 to July 1st 1826	13,848,257.
June 30th 1827 to June 20th 1828	11,640,737
... 1828	12,815,009
... 1829	11,200,020
... 1830	17,256,882
... 1831	16,338,560
... 1832	1825
... 1833	1834
... 1834	1835
... 1835	26,478,509
For the fiscal year 1837	18,477,979
... 1838	25,159,597
... 1839	27,518,477
... 1840	19,886,396
... 1841	—
... 1842	—
... 1843	—
... 1844	25,905,348

According to the report on the revenue belonging to 1844, presented to congress by Luis de la Rosa, the revenues of the government were divided into 7 distinct branches:

1. Duties on exterior commerce,	7,033,720 d.
2. Duties on interior commerce,	4,161,128
3. Taxes on real estate, industrial establishments, professions, and trades,	2,889,495
4. Rents administered for account of government,	2,888,045
5. Revenues and balance of accounts,	714,669
6. Extraordinary resources,	6,280,634
7. Deposits,	2,501,533
	25,949,226
Charges to be deducted,	43,878
Net total,	25,905,348

The revenue of M. for 1851 was thus estimated by the minister of finance:

From maritime custom-houses,	4,000,000 d.
Tonnage duties,	80,000
Exportation duties,	450,000
On coined gold,	2,000
Dyedwood export duties,	6,000
Wrought silver,	500
Gold and silver in bars,	100,000
Consumption duties,	840,000
One per cent. on importation,	175,000
Average,	281,000
Two per cent. on coin,	220,000
Stamp paper,	200,000
Tax on cards,	20,000
Lotteries,	118,000
Mails,	130,000

Three per cent. on silver,	258,000
Tobacco,	675,000
Tax on real estate,	1,000,000
Tax on leases of country and real estate,	100,000
Tax on city real estate,	500,000
Tax on city leases,	780,000
Interior consumption duty,	60,000
Tax on sales of real estate,	350,000
Receipts from the federal district,	75,000
Direct contribution in district,	70,000
Mints,	2,000
Salt lakes, springs, &c.,	15,000
National property,	50,000
Contingent of the states,	50,000
Active credits,	50,000
Tolls from roads,	50,000
Miscellaneous,	100,000
	11,919,500
Maritime duties,	6,224,500
Interior duties,	5,695,000
Total,	11,919,500

*Debt.* The following official exposition of the financial affairs of the country appeared in June 1848:

#### I. RECAPITULATION OF THE PRESENT DEBT.

Amount of foreign debt, with interest, to the 1st of June 1848,	56,329,075 d. 00 c.
Amount of interior debt, contracted after the independence,	47,907,791 87
Amount of interior debt contracted before the independence,	39,606,695 00
Total,	143,843,561 87

#### II. REVENUES OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

The value of the imports, taking for a base the duties, which were in 1843,	22,241,558 d. 39 1/2 c.
1844,	21,139,234 83
1845,	14,777,672 67
From these it is estimated the import duties will be equal to	4,488,000
To which add the inland revenues,	2,224,000
Total,	6,712,000
The whole revenue of the republic, therefore, is estimated at	6,712,000
But from this must be deducted the expenses of collection, and other sums permanently charged on the customs,	1,171,888
Leaving the net sum of	5,540,112

The amount of the expenditures of the government, including interest on the foreign and domestic debt, is estimated at

13,765,426 1 5
Amount of revenue as above
6,540,112 0

'Deficiente,' 8,225,324 1 d. 5 c.

By a recent arrangement, the English debt has been converted into a stock of £10,241,650 bearing only 3 per cent. interest; and 25 per cent. of the import duties of all the maritime and frontier custom-houses are specially assigned for the payment of this interest.

*Military force.* Of the military force of M. under the ancient regime, we have different enumerations by Estalla, Humboldt, and Pike. According to Estalla, the whole military force belonging to New Spain, including garrisons, was 42,191. According to Humboldt, the whole of the peace-establishment in 1804, consisted of 32,196 men, divided into regulars and militia,—exclusive of the military in the peninsula of Yucatan, and the captaincy of Guatimala. Pike stated the effectual disciplined force of M. at 23,288 men, of whom 6,000 were Europeans, the rest Creoles. In addition to this regular army, and trained militia, he estimated the undisciplined militia at 30,500 men; besides 109,000 armed citizens, furnished with bows, arrows, and lances; making a total of 162,788 men. The army of the republic in 1828 amounted to 58,955 men. The commissioned officers are mostly white men; but men of any colour or caste may hold commissions. Few of the officers are highly educated; but a military school, on the plan of the Polytechnic school at

Paris, was established about twenty years ago in the city of Mexico. The pay of a general-of-division in the Mexican service is 500 d. per month. The subalterns are somewhat better paid than officers of the same rank in the British and French services; but, on the other hand, their clothing and accoutrements cost them more. The pay of the private soldiers of the infantry is, or rather was, 12 dollars a-month; of the cavalry, 12½ d. Once a-year they are supplied with a new suit of uniform, made of cloth manufactured at Queretaro. The colour of the infantry uniform is blue. Some of the cavalry wear blue, others red coats. One regiment of infantry, and one or two of cavalry, are clad in white. The cavalry are mounted on horses which, though small, ugly-looking, and only half-trained, are incredibly hardy. The infantry are drilled in the French fashion, and armed with English muskets. About three-fourths of the Mexican troops are pure Indians,—the rest Mestizos, or half-breeds. There are very few Negroes amongst them. Prior to the revolution, the Indians were exempt from military service. The Mexican soldier has one or two useful qualities: he is obedient to his officers, and endures the greatest privations without a murmur. His stature is short, seldom exceeding 5 ft. 5 in.; and he is clumsily made. In the management of his weapons he evinces no dexterity. Wanting pliancy of body and activity of mind, he makes but an indifferent skirmisher; deficient in height and strength of arm, he is not calculated for a grenadier. His strength is in his legs: he can march distances which even a Spanish soldier might fail to accomplish. During the revolution of 1841, Santa Anna made a forced march of 60 m. in 24 hours. Detachments of Mexican infantry have been known to keep up with their mounted officers though going at a trot! Mr. Waddy Thompson, late ambassador from the United States to M., says:—"I do not think that the Mexican men have much more physical strength than our women. They are generally of diminutive stature, wholly unaccustomed to labour or exercise of any sort; and as a conclusive proof of their inferiority to our own Indians, I will mention the fact that frequent incursions are made far into the interior of M. by marauding bands of Comanches, who levy black mail to an enormous extent upon the northern provs. It is not unusual for bands of a hundred Comanches thus to penetrate several hundred miles into M. and carry off as many horses, cattle, and captives as they choose. There are not less than 5,000 Mexicans at this moment slaves of the Comanches. Yet of our western tribes the Comanches are the most cowardly; the Delawares frequently whip them five to one. The soldiers of the M. army are generally collected by sending out recruiting detachments into the mountains, where they hunt the Indians in their dens and caverns, and bring them in chains to M. There is scarcely a day that droves of these miserable and more than half-naked wretches are not seen thus chained together and marching through the streets to the barracks, where they are scourged and then dressed in a uniform made of liner cloth or serge, and occasionally drilled; which drilling consists mainly in teaching them to march in column. In particular emergencies the prisons are thrown open, which always contain more than the army numbers; and these felons become soldiers, and come of them officers. Their arms too are generally worthless English muskets which have been condemned and thrown aside, and are purchased for almost nothing and sold to the government. Their powder too is equally bad. In the last battle between Santa Anna and Bustamante, which lasted the whole day, not one cannon-ball in a thousand reached the enemy;

they generally fell half-way between the opposing armies." The cavalry, for the most part, are recruited from the same class of men as the infantry. The irregular cavalry, however, are composed of much finer men than the regular. They are chiefly Mestizos. A regiment of Mexican infantry comprises 2 battalions, 16 companies, and 1,792 men rank and file. A regiment of Mexican cavalry is 676 strong.

*Marine force.*] The marine force of the republic consisted in 1828 of one vessel of the line, one frigate, and 11 smaller war-vessels. In 1845 it was represented as consisting of the steamers Guadalupe, 778 tons, and Montezuma, 1,100 tons, three brigs, two schooners, and four gun-boats, each mounting a long 24-pounder on a pivot. A short time previous to the war with the United States, the M. navy had been reduced to two brigs, two schooners, and a few gun-boats.

*History.*] Columbus discovered the western coast of the American continent, from Cape Gracias to Porto-Bello, in 1502. In 1510, Vasco Nunez de Balboa founded the first Spanish settlement on the mainland, at Santa Maria on the gulf of Darien. In 1516, Hernandez Cordova, an opulent planter in Cuba, sailed from that island, with 120 men, and landed in the territory of Yucatan; but suffering himself to be surprised by the natives, he was slain by them together with several of his men. Juan de Grijalva, having under his command three ships and a brigantine, sailed from Cuba in April 1518, and arriving in Yucatan, avenged the death of Cordova. He then sailed to the river Tabasco, where he landed, and took formal possession of the country in the name of Charles V. The success which had attended Grijalva's expedition prompted the Spaniards to fit out a third and larger one of eleven vessels, under Hernando or Fernando Cortez, a native of Medellin in Estremadura. Cortez embarked at Cuba in November 1518, and on his arrival at Cozumel in Yucatan, mustered his forces, and found them to consist of 508 soldiers, including 16 horsemen, with 10 small field-pieces, and 109 seamen and mechanics, besides 2 ecclesiastics. With this handful of men he was destined to effect the conquest of nearly a whole continent. "The Mexican empire at this period," says Dr. Robertson, "was at a pitch of grandeur to which no society ever attained in so short a period. Though it had subsided, according to their own traditions, only 130 years, its dominion extended from the north to the south sea, over territories stretching with some small interruption above 500 leagues from E to W, and more than 200 from N to S, comprehending provinces not inferior in fertility, population, and opulence, to any in the torrid zone. The people were warlike and enterprising; the authority of the monarch unbounded, and his revenues considerable." Cortez proved himself a merciless oppressor of the conquered Indians. In every district of the empire the progress of the Spanish arms was traced in blood; but above all, was the working of the mines made a source of destruction to the natives, through the unwholesomeness of the occupation, and excess of labour imposed upon them. Cortez was ultimately recalled from the viceroyalty, but received magnificent grants, and a commission for making new discoveries and new conquests; and at different times fitted out expeditions for making discoveries in the Pacific, on which he lavished much treasure, but with no renewal of his former success. Tired at last by disappointment, he returned to Spain, in the hope of at least being reimbursed the expenses incurred on his several expeditions; but his representations were coldly listened to; he was forbidden to return to M.; and died on the 2d of December 1547, in the 62d year of his age. The body of this extraordinary man, whose story is one of all but supernatural interest, was sent to M., and interred in the cathedral of his capital. *From Cortez to the revolution.*] From 1535 to 1808, M. continued to be governed by viceroys nominated by the court of Spain. The most eminent of these was the Count de Revillagigedo, whose administration during the last twenty years of the 18th cent. was wise and beneficent. Before noticing the rise and progress of the Mexican revolution, it may be expedient to take a general view of the colonial system pursued by the old government. "Spain," says Southey, "formed her colonial establishments in America at that dark period which preceded by more than a century the date of the English plantations. The excitement which the incipient reformation of religion had created in the N of Europe, was scarcely felt in Spain, or was suppressed by that horrible tribunal the inquisition, or counteracted by that strange mixture of superstition and chivalry which produced the crusades, and which had been kept alive in the Peninsula by the reiterated and ultimately successful efforts to extirpate the Moorish power. Their religion, and the feelings which it excited, constituted a species of knight-errantry, which led them to fight for the beauty of a mistress, the honour of St. Jago, or the immaculate conception of the Holy Virgin, with equal pertinacity and ferocity. Imbued with such feelings to an intensity now scarcely conceivable, the expeditions to America were composed of soldiers stimulated, in addition, by an ardent thirst for that gold in which the newly-discovered countries were represented to abound.



As they brought with them from Europe few or no females, they speedily formed connections with the wives or daughters of those whom they had sacrificed. Hence has arisen a race proud of the imagined dignity of their male ancestors, and uniting with it much of the apathy and want of sensibility which distinguished the aborigines of America. Spain became early aware of the kind of pop. which was thus scattered over its boundless dominions. It sent them troops of priests to continue among the emigrants, and to propagate among the natives that blind submission in spiritual matters which she fancied would equally secure civil dependence. Few of the colonists were allowed to carry arms; hence, after the lapse of more than a cent., the settlers were so little prepared for defence, that they became the easy prey of those bands of sanguinary and lawless ruffians, known by the name of *haceneros*, who looked only to plunder, and thought of no permanent establishments. The same anxiety to retain subjection, which had induced the court of Spain to leave the colonies defenceless, was extended to every branch of policy. Not only were viceroys and other chief governors sent from Europe, but all the judges, supreme and subordinate,—all the administrators of revenue and expenditure,—the members of the municipal corporations,—the officers of the police,—the inquisitors and their inferiors or familiars,—were nominated by Spain. Thus whilst the natives were not likely to be called upon to exercise any public functions, they had no inducements, even if they had enjoyed the means of instruction, to qualify themselves for the discharge of the lowest public services in society. The laws were unknown to all but the Europeans who presided in the courts of judicature, and by the Americans were supposed to be strained or interpreted in such a way as to favour those natives of the peninsula who were settled amongst them. The only institutions they venerated were those of a superstitious nature. The only object to which they looked up with respect was Spain and its monarch. The only subject of pride which they dwelt upon with complacency was that they were Spaniards. They believed—for it had been artfully and sedulously impressed on their minds—that the king of Spain was the chief monarch in the universe, in whose dominions the sun never set; and that France, England, Italy, and the other countries of Europe, were tributaries to the nation of which they formed a part. The lowest of the Creoles, if but a tenth part of the blood that circulated in their veins was of Spanish origin, would exclaim, *¡somos Españoles!* with a tone and emphasis that bespoke a sense of the dignity which they imagined to be derived from that nation. The settlements were mostly formed in a warmer climate than the districts occupied by the English colonists. In such climates the sea-shores are generally found to be unhealthy, and hence the thickest-peopled parts of the Spanish dominions were on the elevated plains, at a distance from the sea. The cities of Mexico, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Bogota, Quito, Cuzco, and St. Jago, are in the interior of their respective provs.; and the communication between them and Europe was difficult, hazardous, and protracted, even without violating the various impediments and restrictions which the European metropolises interposed to favour the commercial monopolies of a few of her favoured cities. The intercourse between the several provs. of America was so restricted and guarded, that any knowledge or discoveries originating in one, could scarcely be communicated to the others, and the commodities furnished by some were not allowed to be supplied to their brother-colonists who might require them. Such, with a few variations, and with slight exceptions, had been the condition of Spanish America from the first year of its settlement, till the moment when, by the treachery of France, and the folly of the king of Spain, it was set loose from all existing government, and left to itself to construct, with such wretched materials as the country could furnish, the edifice of social society.

A lurking discontent at the conduct of the mother-country had long existed among the Mexican Creoles; and Spain, though conscious of the fact, had done nothing to remove it. The principal sources of this feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the Creoles have been already hinted at, viz. their exclusion from all offices of power and emolument in their own country,—the checks imposed upon agriculture and manufacturing industry,—and the commercial monopoly exercised by the parent state. The war with Great Britain, which had lasted with little interruption for more than twelve years, had but slightly and partially affected the commercial prosperity of the colonies, and latterly not at all. *Neutrals* sailing under double licenses from London and Madrid, carried on the commerce; and, where these could not be obtained, the necessities of the colonies had been amply supplied by a contraband trade. The restoration of peace revived the commercial monopoly of the mother-country in all its rigour, and nearly annihilated the trade of the colonies. Spain could not offer them a market for their productions, nor even supply them with vessels to carry it to Europe. Aware of the wide-spread spirit of dissatisfaction in the colonies, the central junta of Spain promulgated three several decrees in their favour, in order to allay the rising ferment. The first decree, dated 22d January 1809, declared that the Spanish colonies formed an integral part of the nation, possessing equal rights; and therefore that each viceroyalty should send one deputy to the sovereign body. A second decree, issued 22d May, 1809, announced the right of the colonies to send deputies to the cortes; and that the committee appointed to regulate the convocation of that assembly was to determine the proportion. A third decree of 1st January, 1810, recognised the equal rights of the colonies, and gave orders for choosing supplementary deputies, from colonial natives

resident in Spain, till the real members should arrive. A grievous error was, however, committed in apportioning the deputies for the supreme junta; for while more than 100 members were allowed for Spain, 24 only were allotted for America; and, though the elections in the peninsula were strictly popular, yet in the colonies the right was exclusively vested in the *cabildos*, or public corporations, the members of which were chiefly European Spaniards, who could not be said to represent the colonists at all, and who, though they had in reality been composed of Creoles, would have possessed little political influence in that assembly; for in any case where the interests of Spain and the colonies might seem to be in collision, what probability would there be that the American members—only 24 in number—should be able to turn the scale in favour of their constituents? In this declaration of equal rights the Indians, Negroes, and Mestizos with all the other various shades of colour, were excluded; the members were to be chosen only from among the Whites, thus excluding five-sixths of the Mexican pop. from the exercise of these rights. Notwithstanding these pompous declarations of abstract rights, the regency which succeeded the central junta continued to treat the Americans on the old footing of dependent colonies; and the viceroys, judges, and other officers, were sent out as before, with the same powers and instructions as the old government had been wont to furnish to its servants. But the transaction which made the deepest impression on the colonists, was the revocation of a decree of 17th May, 1810, which permitted the colonies to trade with foreign nations, in articles of their own soil or manufacture for which they could not find a market in Spain. The measure, however equitable and necessary, was contrary to the interests of the merchants of Cadiz; and the regency—which in consequence of the disasters in the peninsula, was now shut up in Cadiz—though desirous to do something to satisfy the Americans on the one hand, were afraid of the mercantile junta of Cadiz, in whose power they were, on the other; and finally acted a most cowardly and impolitic part. The decree was privately printed, and secretly despatched, as they imagined, to all the colonies; but the thing soon transpired, and the mercantile junta of Cadiz—they for whom the olive was forbidden to grow in Mexico, and its vines had been rooted up—insisted on the instant repeal of an edict which would subvert their gainful monopoly. The regency submitted to the disgrace of disowning its own act. This impolitic step, together with the news of the disasters of the Spanish arms,—the dispersion of the central junta, and their flight to Cadiz,—their consequent abdication of power and the erection of a regency, controlled by a mercantile junta detested throughout all Spanish America for its selfish opposition to the interests of the colonies,—soon reached the ears of the discontented colonists. The arrest and deposition of the viceroy, Iturrigaray, in 1808, had divided the Mexicans into two parties. He had proposed the measure of choosing a Mexican junta to govern New Spain, while the parent state was destitute of a political head. Intoxicated with their success in deposing the viceroy, the European Spaniards could not refrain from insulting the Creoles; and the situation of the latter had become almost intolerable, when intelligence arrived that the central junta had lavished its highest honours on their enemies; had ordered the removal of the archbishop, who, though a European, was beloved by them for his moderation; and had invested the high court of justice, whom the Creoles considered as its most violent enemy, with the temporary government of the kingdom, until the arrival of the viceroy Venegas, nominated by the mercantile junta of Cadiz.

*Hidalgo's conspiracy.* In this state of public irritation, an extensive conspiracy was formed, the ring-leaders of which were chiefly priests; but many lawyers and militia officers joined with them, and what was most alarming of all, some regiments of militia. The most active and enterprising of the conspirators was a country vicar of the name of Hidalgo, who enjoyed a valuable living at Dolores in the intendancy of Valladolid. On the 17th of September, 1810, Hidalgo, having assembled the Indians, expatiated to them from the pulpit on the tyranny of the Europeans, the state to which Spanish treachery had reduced the peninsula, and the danger of being delivered up to the French or English, who would assuredly extirpate the Catholic religion. His harangue effected its purpose upon a people deeply imbued with superstition; he ended his sermon by calling the Indians to arms, and in an instant more than half the kingdom of Mexico was in a flame. The intendancy of Michoacan immediately recognised the orders of the insurgent chief; three regiments of veterans joined his standard; and Salamanca, with Valladolid, fell into his hands. Wherever he appeared, the Indians crowded to his standard; the wealthy town of Guanajuato supplied him with 5,600,000 d.; and the insurgents wanted nothing but discipline, and leaders of military skill, to complete their project. Venegas, who had lately arrived, in the meantime secured the city of Queretaro, and averted into submission the Creoles of the capital, by forming a camp of his troops without the walls. The governors of San-Luis-Potosi and Guadalajara aroused the militia of the country; and, in order to avoid suspicion, even the wealthy Creoles of the principal cities supported the cause of the Spaniards. Hidalgo, with an army of 40,000 men, advanced to Toluca; while that of the viceroy fell back on Lerma. Another corps of insurgents in the meantime pushed through Axico, to Cuernavaca, and obtained possession of the western coast with the city of Acapulco. Hidalgo advanced to the pass of La Cruz, which he easily forced, though defended by a division of the royalists, and presented himself before the capital on the 1st of November. If Hidalgo had improved this juncture, Mexico

must have been lost to Spain; but he wanted decision; and summoned the capital when he should have stormed it. The summons was answered with contempt; and Hidalgo began a retrograde movement, having received intelligence of advantages which the main body of the viceregal troops had obtained in his rear. General Calleja having taken the town of Dolores, the birth-place of the revolution, and put all the inhabitants to the sword, met Hidalgo at Axcuxco, and completely defeated him. He however reached the internal provinces with a considerable body of troops, but the governor of that part of the kingdom having offered to treat with him, Hidalgo and his comrades incautiously presented themselves for a conference, and were immediately seized and put to death, at Saltillo, on the 21st of March 1811.

**Revolutionary movements.]** The insurrection, however, was far from being quelled by the death of its authors. The whole Indian and Creole pop. had now risen in every part of M., and formed detached corps which adopted the guerrilla system of warfare. The most conspicuous of these guerrilla leaders were Rayon, a lawyer, and Morelos, a priest. Morelos, after several successful and indecisive actions with the royalists, captured Acapulco, and effectually cut off all communication between the city of Mexico and Vera Cruz. Meanwhile a congress met at a place 40 leagues distant from Mexico, and framed and published a democratic constitution. Morelos was ultimately taken prisoner and shot, and the independent chiefs now acting without cordiality or concert, the royalists gradually reconquered many of the revolted districts. Such was the posture of affairs when Xavier Mina, a nephew of the celebrated Espoz-y-Mina, landed at Galveston, in November 1816. On the 16th of April following, he pushed forward to Soto-la-Marina, on the river Santander, and from thence took up his line of march for the interior, at the head of only 508 men. In 32 days he effected a junction with the patriots at Sombroero; but after a brief and gallant career, this extraordinary youth fell into the hands of the royalists, and was shot in the 28th year of his age.

**Second revolution.]** About the middle of 1820, accounts were received in M. of the revolution in Spain which followed the revolt of the army in the isle of Leon; and it was soon understood that orders had been sent to Apodaca, the viceroy, to proclaim the constitution. "But it appears," says Captain Hall, "that Apodaca and some of the principal generals, acting probably under secret orders from the king, resolved to resist the establishment of the constitution. New levies of troops were made by the government to suppress any attempt to declare it; and the whole country was gradually and almost insensibly roused into military action. The chief obstacle, as it was thought by these leaders, to the success of their plan, was the presence of General Arriaga, whose attachment to the cause of the constitution was too well known to admit a doubt of his supporting it. He was, therefore, dismissed from the command of the military division stationed between Mexico and Acapulco; and in his place, Don Augustin Iturbide was appointed,—an officer who, during the former revolution, had adhered steadily to the interests of the king, though a native of Mexico. He had been privy to the secret project above alluded to, of forcibly resisting the proclamation of the constitution; and when he left Mexico in February 1821 to supersede Arriaga, he was implicitly confided in by the viceroy, who appointed him to escort half-a-million of dollars destined for embarkation at Acapulco. Iturbide, however, took possession of the money at a place called Iguala, about 120 m. from Mexico, and commenced the second Mexican revolution, by publishing a paper, wherein he proposed to the viceroy that a new form of government should be established, independent of the mother country." On the 24th of February, 1821, Iturbide proposed to the patriot chiefs a new scheme of government; and on the 3d of March his army took an oath to enforce and maintain it. Things were in this state when, in August 1821, General O'Donoghue arrived from Spain with powers to supersede Apodaca. To the surprise of all parties, O'Donoghue entered into Iturbide's views, and the two generals concerted together a form of government for New Spain, in which it was provisioned that New Spain should be recognised as a sovereign and independent state, and that a cortes should be immediately elected for the purpose of framing a constitution. O'Donoghue, however, died soon after his arrival. A struggle soon commenced between the Cortes and Iturbide; the former were desirous of reducing the standing army, while the latter used every effort to augment it. The result was, the elevation of Iturbide by the army to the imperial dignity, under the title of Augustus I. Iturbide, however, did not long enjoy his power in tranquillity. Santa Anna, the governor of Vera Cruz, unfurled the standard of the republic, and was joined by Victoria and Bravo; the partisans of Iturbide gradually deserted him, while the forces of the republican generals rapidly increased. In this state of things, Iturbide proposed to relieve the country of his presence, and congress recommended that he should be permitted to retire to some foreign country with a pension of 25,000 d. Immediately after Iturbide's departure, a new constitution was framed and promulgated by a new congress, and was sworn to on the 20 of February 1824. But the tranquillity which ensued was again disturbed by the appearance of the ex-emperor, who contrived to land in disguise, on the 14th of July, at Soto-la-Marina. On his discovery he was seized, and it was determined to give immediate effect to a decree which had been passed in April, denouncing Iturbide as a traitor in case of his landing. He was accordingly shot on the evening of the 19th of July. At the first election of the chief magistrate, General Victoria was elected.

The most serious difficulty which the new government laboured under arose out of the exhausted state of the public finances. In Aug. 1824, a loan of 20,000,000 d. was contracted for with a London house, and a further loan of 16,000,000 d. was subsequently negotiated. On the 1st of January 1825, Mr. Canning communicated to all the foreign ministers at the English court, that the cabinet of his Britannic majesty had come to the resolution of acknowledging the independence of the republics of M. and Colombia. Notwithstanding of these and subsequent measures, the tranquillity of this country was far from being perfectly secured. On the 30th of November 1828, an insurrection broke out in the capital, and General Guerrero was invested with the presidency; but on the 4th of December 1829, Bustamante, the vice-president of the republic, raised the standard of revolt, and Guerrero having abdicated, the government remained in the hands of Bustamante and his party. Congress subsequently decreed the expulsion of all Spaniards from the soil of M. In 1829, Spain sent an expedition from the Havannah against M., but the attempt to reduce this country to its former dependence, was, as might well have been expected, utterly vain. Bustamante was now president, but Santa Anna declared against him, banished him, recalled Pedraza, and by his assistance succeeded in being himself elected president, after a solemn pledge to respect the constitution. In 1834, after being foiled in an attempt to erect himself into a dictator, he dissolved the legislative council, overthrew the federal constitution, and established a military despotism. Zanteacas remained true to the constitution; and Santa Anna marched against it, sacked the town, and gained a forced submission. But Texas declared for the federal constitution, and afterwards for independence, fixing the Rio-Grande-del-Norte as its boundary with the M. fedecacy. The contest between Texas and Santa Anna ended in the signal defeat and capture of the latter by a vastly inferior force. While a prisoner, his absence was taken advantage of, and Bustamante returning from exile, defeated Barradas, Santa Anna's lieutenant, and became once more president. His administration was most unpopular. Santa Anna once liberated, after a brief retirement, took part in 1841 in the revolution of Tacubaya, by which the new constitution of 1836 was abolished, and himself again elevated to the presidential chair. In 1842 a congress was returned which busied itself in framing another constitution, but was suddenly dissolved, and a junta of notables selected who framed the basis of the political organization of the Mexican republic. Santa Anna was inaugurated president of this new system of things on the 1st of January 1844, but only enjoyed his power one year. General Paredes headed a rebellion, which drove the dictator from the chair, with a sentence of ten years' banishment, General Herrera being substituted in his stead. Herrera's power was also short-lived, and Paredes, who succeeded him, was carried to power by the voices of the soldiery.

**War with the United States.]** We now come to the negotiations which ended in a disastrous war with the United States. The United States having several causes of complaint against M.—some just, perhaps, as in the instance of the constant insult and imprisonment of her citizens in that republic,—others questionable, as the Texas boundary-question,—determined on sending an envoy to adjust their differences. On the 30th of November 1845, the envoy, Mr. Slidell, arrived at Vera Cruz; but General Herrera's government was already tottering, in consequence of its supposed friendly disposition to the United States. Mr. Slidell's credentials were not received; but after receiving instructions from home, he renewed his application to the existing government of Paredes, and on the 12th of March 1846, having received a denial of his demand to be received as an accredited envoy he demanded his passports and retired. In the meanwhile the president of the United States had, with the avowed purpose of preventing a Mexican invasion, ordered a military force to take a position between the Nueces and the Rio-Grande, which, according to the Mexican view of the question, even allowing Texas to be a portion of the Union, was an invasion on the part of that republic. This force remained here until the envoy was rejected, and as the United States recognised the boundary fixed on by the Texan government in 1836, it was resolved for various reasons to advance to the Rio-Grande. On the 13th of January 1846, instructions were issued to the generals in command of the American troops to occupy the L bank of the Del-Norte. "This river, which is the SW boundary of the state of Texas, is," said President Polk, in his message to congress, "an exposed frontier. From this quarter invasion was threatened; upon it and its immediate vicinity, in the judgment of high military experience, are the proper stations for the protecting forces of the government. In addition to this important consideration, several others occurred to induce this movement. Among these are the facilities afforded by the ports of Brazos-Santiago and the mouth of the Del-Norte for the reception of supplies by sea,—the stronger and more healthful military positions,—the convenience for obtaining a ready and more abundant supply of provisions, water, fuel, and forage,—and the advantages which are afforded by Del-Norte in forwarding supplies to such posts as may be established in the interior and upon the Indian frontier." It seems clear, even upon the president's own showing, that the American advance from Corpus Christi to the Rio-del-Norte was uncalculated for, and an act of hostility towards M. True, the Mexicans kept up an army on the banks of the Rio-Bravo; but they had had ports there for a number of years; and even supposing the Americans had a rightful title to Texas, it is not apparent that the Mexicans committed any wrong in garrisoning Matamoras. The territory intervening between

the Rio-Bravo and the Nueces had been long a disputed territory between Texas and the adjoining provs.; yet the Mexican commander did not occupy this territory, but kept on his own side of the Rio-del-Norte. "The character of the war against M.," said one of America's ablest statesmen, "is vicious; it is a war of pretext. The real motive of it is not distinctly avowed. There are three pretexts—all of them unfounded—on which this war is sought to be placed by its originators and defenders. The president in his message to congress, May 11, 1846, puts it on the fact that the Mexicans have invaded American territory, and shed American blood: In my opinion this is not correct. As early as January 1846, our army was advanced beyond the Mexican boundaries of Texas, and upon the 1. bank of the Rio-Grande occurred the first hostilities, and the first shedding of American and Mexican blood. Was this the invasion of American territory, and the spilling of American blood on such territory? It was soil claimed by the United States executive, not by congress; and also claimed by the Mexican government for as much a part of her territory as the capital itself, and it was moreover in her actual possession. Our troops were marched into a country claimed and occupied by the Mexicans." On the 8th of May 1846, the Mexicans were defeated at Palo-Alto by the Americans under General Taylor, and again, after a few days, at Resaca-de-la-Palma. Taylor then crossed the Rio-Grande, and advanced on Matamoros, which was evacuated by the Mexican forces. On the 16th of August, Santa Anna landed at Vera Cruz, and took the command of the Mexican army, and Bravo assumed the title of provisional president. On the 29th of March 1847, the castle of San Juan-de-Ulloa capitulated to General Scott; and on the 18th of April, Santa Anna was defeated at Cerro-Gordo, on the road from Vera Cruz to Jalapa and Mexico. On the 19th of August the American forces again defeated Santa Anna, within a league of the capital; and on the 14th of September the invading army took possession of the capital, which the treachery of Santa Anna appears to have left defenceless. While these operations were going forward, a single regiment of American volunteers, under General Kearney, left the banks of the Missouri,—traversed the great prairies lying between the inhabited parts of the United States and the White mountains,—entered New Mexico,—occupied Santa Fe and the fertile valley of the Taos,—marched southward along the Sacramento, on the banks of which river they won a notable victory over vastly superior numbers,—conquered the large country of Chihuahua,—and finally returned to their own states by way of the gulf of Mexico and New Orleans. They marched several thousands of miles, conquered two fine provs., and fought three battles without a cent of pay, with no regular commissariat, with no assistance from any quarter, and in a poor and hostile country covered with enormous desert-tracts. The war ended by depriving M. of a very large portion of her territorial possessions, in terms of a treaty concluded at Guadalupe-Hidalgo, on the 2d of February 1848. It also left the country split into a variety of parties. Don Manuel de la Pena y Pena, who ratified the treaty, was only interim president of the republic, and he immediately made room for the executive, constitutionally formed. At its head was General Jose Joaquin de Herrera, who was elected president for the usual term of four years. General Herrera's government professed to be of conservative principles, yet not inclined to encourage progressive improvement; at the same time it was strongly suspected of secretly leaning on the United States. The other leading parties are, on the one side those of the extreme liberals, or *Procs.*, as they are called; on the other the monarchist or tory, and the bigoted clerical sections. Many openly favour the influence and ultimate domination of their northern conquerors, while many respectable politicians desire to uphold a counteracting English policy, were it established, which unfortunately it is not. A large number take the general view that a foreign intervention of some kind is necessary to prevent a total disruption of the elements of government, if confided exclusively to Mexican hands; and finally, many are still partisans of Santa Anna, and a movement which embraces nearly the whole line of coast on the side of the Atlantic, from the Rio-Bravo-del-Norte to the isthmus of Tehuantepec, and the shore of the Pacific, from the head of the gulf of California, nearly to the state of Mexico itself, is now making for the restoration of the system and the power of that chief.

In 1851, General Arista was elected president of the republic; but the legislative body has hitherto in great measure thwarted all his venereal measures, and even adjourned without having voted the supplies, or made any provision for the management of public affairs. The zeal and energy of the executive, however, has succeeded in quelling an insurrection in Vera Cruz, and repressing subsequent outbreaks in Mazatlan, Jalisco, and Guadalupe. But every possible resource seems now exhausted. Not a dollar of public money, nor a vestige of public credit, is left. The northern states are devastated by the incursions of the savage Comanches. New insurrections are being organized on a more formidable scale than ever. The United States government is insisting upon its right of way across the isthmus of Tehuantepec, in accordance with a treaty which the Mexican executive, even if it had the will, has not the power to execute against the determination of the Mexican people. France is pressing hard for the satisfaction of certain grievances of her own. The army is disaffected; the press factious in the extreme; all respect for constituted authority is becoming extinct; and the most essential functions of government seem utterly impracticable. In all modern history there is hardly a case of such rapid national ruin.

*Authorities.* Clavigero *Historia antigua del Mexico*. Cesene, 1786.

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MEXICO, or Mexico, the cap. of Spanish America, and of the federal republic of the same name, situated in 19° 25' N lat., and 99° 5' W long., at an alt. of 7,471 ft. above sea-level. It is built on the site of Old Mexico, and forms a great square of which each side is nearly 9,021 ft. in length. The streets are straight, broad, level, and remarkably well-paved and well-lighted; sewers and water-courses are opened in the greater number, and footpaths are raised to carry off the water. The streets cross each other at right angles, dividing the whole city into squares of nearly equal dimensions. Each one of these squares is called a street, and has a separate name,—a serious inconvenience to a stranger. "Instead of designating the street in its whole extent by one name, and numbering the houses, each side of every square has a different name, and names which sound, to Protestant ears, very much like a violation of the third article of the Decalogue. A gentleman will tell you that he lives in the Holy Ghost, or that he lives in Jesus. In most of these streets there is a church, which gives name to the street in which it stands. In many instances these churches and convents—that of San Augustine for example—cover the whole square, not with separate buildings, but one single edifice, with the usual *patio* or court, an open space in the centre. There is not, I believe, a house in the city without this court, of greater or less dimensions, in proportion to the size of the building. There is only one door on the lower floor, and none at all on the outside of the upper story. This door is very strongly built, and high enough for a coach to pass through; it opens into the *patio*, through which you pass to the steps leading to the upper stories, where alone everybody lives except the lowest classes." [Thompson.] The houses are closely built together, without any intervening spaces, and present a massive frontage usually 3 stories in height. The broad and well-paved streets, says Gilliam, "stretch out on a level plane; the only relief to the eye of the looker on being that, it matters not in whatever street you may happen to be, turn whatsoever direction you may, you will, through the long perspective, behold the mountains, which never failed to attract my attention from the heavy masonry of the buildings. There are no scattered houses here, but the entire squares are built up in one solid block, being, as it were, but one vast edifice, and having no back grounds; for every foot of earth is covered with stone and mortar; and, as the walls are all united, it is said that little detriment has ever been sustained there by earthquakes, which are always more or less felt in the spring season, saving the occasional cracking of walls, and the falling of some few houses in the suburbs, built of sun-dried brick. The dimensions of the houses of the city of Mexico surpass those of Vera Cruz and Puebla; yet the architecture is the same. I hardly know what to denominate the style, unless it should be the Arabic or Moorish, mixed with Indian. The city in its appearance is more compact, and, as a whole, looks better than any other city that I have before seen; yet I must confess that I felt disappointed, from all that I had before heard, in not beholding a more magnificent outside show; for the coarsely stuccoed walls of the houses, with but few exceptions, having windows to their first story, looked to me as only being clumsy ramparts for the garrisons contained behind them; at the same time, the door-ways, in the centre, from 12 to 15 ft. in height, swung upon



ponderous hinges, having many locks of curious construction, appeared to be the huge gates of a fortress." The exterior is not loaded with ornaments; nor have they those wooden balconies and galleries which disfigure so many European cities in both the Indies. The balustrades and gates are frequently of Biscay iron ornamented with bronze; and the houses, instead of roofs have terraces like those in Italy and other southern countries. On these accounts, combined with the uniform level of its site, the surrounding scenery, and the beautiful architecture of its numerous buildings, M. is the finest city built by Europeans in the western hemisphere. The environs also are beautiful, and give to it a peculiar air of grandeur. Nothing can present a more elegant and varied appearance than the surrounding valley, when in a fine summer morning, from the top of one of the towers of the cathedral, or from the summit of Chapultepec, the sky is seen without a cloud and of that deep azure which is peculiar to the dry and rarified air of high mountains. The eye sweeps over a vast plain of carefully cultivated fields, extending to the very feet of colossal mountains covered with eternal snows; the city seems as if washed by the waters of the lake, whose basin, surrounded with villages and hamlets, resembles the beautiful lakes of Switzerland; large avenues of elms and poplar lead in every direction to the city, and two aqueducts, constructed over arches of very great elevation, cross the plain adding an interesting feature to the scenery. The magnificent convent of Guadalupe appears joined to the mountains of Tepeyacac among ravines sheltering a few date and young yucca trees. Towards the S, the whole tract between San-Angel, Tacabaya, and San-Augustin-de-las-Cuivas, appears as one immense garden of orange, peach, apple, cherry, and other European fruit trees. This beautiful cultivation is singularly contrasted with the savage appearance of the naked mountains surrounding the valley, among which, the two famous volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Istaccihuatl are the most distinguished. The former of these forms an enormous cone, the crater of which, continually inflamed and throwing up smoke and ashes, opens in the midst of eternal snows.

*Public edifices.*] The buildings that most attract the admiration of strangers are, the cathedral, the treasury, the convents, the hospital, the *acordada* or royal prison, the school-of-mines, the botanical garden, the university and public library, the academy of fine arts, with a collection of ancient casts, the theatre or opera-house capable of seating 10,000, and finally, the equestrian statue of Charles IV. in the Plaza Major, and the sepulchral monument of the great Cortez, both executed by Tolsa, an eminent Mexican artist. The latter is a simple family monument, adorned with a bust in bronze, representing the hero in the prime of life. The Plaza Major covers an area of 12 acres, paved with marble. On one side of it stands the cathedral; on the other the government palace. The palace of the Inquisition, now applied to more useful purposes, is very elegant, exhibiting little or no appearance of the purposes for which it was intended. This tribunal was abolished by Iturbide in 1822. Among the other public buildings of the city, the Minería, or school of mines, though now in a dilapidated state, occupies the first rank. It is large and handsome; but either from defect in the foundations, or from the effect of earthquakes, is in a tottering state. It contains a respectable but ill-arranged collection of minerals; and lectures on engineering and chemistry are sometimes given in it. The academy of fine arts, the university and public libraries, are in a similar state of confusion and neglect. The *acordada*

or public prison, is a large substantial structure fitted to contain 1,300 prisoners; the barracks, also, formerly used as an hospital, are extensive and well-constructed. The Plaza-del-toros, for the exhibition of bull-fights, consists of a great circular enclosure, and can conveniently accommodate 3,000 spectators. The great national manufactory of tobacco in the SW angle of the city, is an immense establishment, and supplies the whole legitimate demand of the confederation for cigars.—The Alameda, or public walk, at the west end, somewhat resembles a park, but has the stiff, formal appearance of Dutch and French grounds. In the centre is a magnificent fountain. Another open space, called the *Passéo*, about 1½ m. in length, planted with double rows of trees, is much frequented on holidays by persons in carriages and on horseback. In the city, also, are several *portales*, or covered colonnades, lined with shops and stalls, and forming a favourite evening promenade. The environs also present on Friday evenings a very lively scene of bustle and gaiety; hundreds of canoes, of various sizes, mostly with awnings, and crowded with native Indians and *Meztizos*, are seen passing in every direction along the canals, each boat with its guitar-player at the stern, and some of the party either singing or dancing.

*Manufactures.*] The manufactures carried on in the city and vicinity are not remarkable either for extent or fineness of workmanship. Nothing is exposed in the store windows, and most of the articles are made in the places where they are offered for sale. Gold and silver lace trimmings, epaulettes, &c., are made in great perfection; silversmith work and chasing are also well done. Jewelry and lapidary's work is made at great expense. Cabinet-ware is extremely dear, and inferior, being made with clumsy tools and bad woods; the saw is scarcely known, and the turning-lathe is of the most primitive construction. Coach-making is better understood, and extensively carried on. Hats and cloaks are made on a large scale, but are sold at high prices. Soap is a staple manufacture. Men, not women, are the milliners, and it is not uncommon to see twenty or thirty strong, able fellows, who should be employed at coal-heaving or dray-work, employed in decorating ladies' dresses, making flowers, and trimming caps and flounces! The bake-houses are large establishments, and the bread, which is excellent, is made exclusively by peons or slaves, which class also perform the work in the cloth factories. Shops, for the sale of pulque, and native Spanish brandies, are very common, and have a gay appearance. The city markets are well-supplied with animal and vegetable productions. The latter are chiefly cultivated on the *chinampas*, or floating islands in the lakes, which are extremely fertile. Turkeys, fowls, pigeons, and many varieties of wild water-fowl, are very abundant and cheap; as are hares, rabbits, tortoises, frogs, and salamanders, all of which are esteemed good eating by the inhabitants. The meat market is well-supplied with beef, mutton, and pork, but veal is prohibited. There is a great variety of vegetables and fruits, and an enormous consumption in proportion to the population. The vegetable market is unequal to the daily supply; and the area is entirely covered with bananas, plantains, citrons, shaddocks, melons, pomegranates, dates, mangoes, tomatoes, and all the varied productions of tropical countries.

*Population, &c.*] The pop. of M., according to Estalla and Humboldt, was 142,000 in 1801, including a garrison of 5,000 men. Poinsett estimated it in 1802 at between 150,000 and 160,000; and recent accounts raise it to 250,000. The pop. is of a very mixed character, about one-half being Creoles, or descendants of the Spaniards; one-fourth *Meztizos*, or half-castes be-

tween the Europeans and Indians; and nearly another fourth copper-coloured Indians, with some Blacks, Mulattoes, and about 6,000 or 7,000 Europeans. There is extreme disparity in the wealth of the citizens. Many of the magnates and successful speculators are immensely rich, but the mass are indolent and indigent, the lower orders being generally found loitering about the porches of churches, public buildings, and the markets. These are the *leperos*, a class somewhat similar to the *lazzaroni* of Naples; but the latter are not so notorious as the leperos of M. for the crimes of robbery and murder. The dress of the higher order of men resembles that of Europeans, the large cloak being as common here as in Spain. The costume of the ladies is universally black, with the veil and mantilla; but on holidays and public occasions, their dresses are remarkable as well for gayness of colours as for expensiveness of material. Indeed, when in their carriages on the Paseo, they contrast somewhat strangely with the same persons when seen at home in complete *dishabille*, without stockings, squatting on the floor, and either pursuing their favourite amusement of cigar-smoking, or eating cakes and capicum out of the dirty earthenware of the country. Many gentlemen belonging to the higher ranks are intelligent, and a few even fond of literature; but the city is so badly supplied with libraries, and other means of study, as to give little encouragement to such pursuits. There are three or four newspapers; but they are miserable productions, containing little besides the merest chit-chat, copiously dispersed with advertisements.

Though the parishes do not exceed 14, yet the churches of M. exceed 100 in number. The cathedral was 94 years in building, namely, from 1573 to 1667; it is of great size, divided into five naves or avenues, three open for processions, and two containing chapels and altars; the length being 400 ft., the breadth 195 ft. This edifice cost 1,752,000 d., or £394,200. The clergy of the city of M. are extremely numerous; the whole, including monks and nuns, amounting to 2,392. There are 23 monasteries, and 15 nunneries, containing 867 monks, and 923 nuns. Secular clergy, 517; curates, 43; parish priests, 16; and prebendaries, 26. The number of charitable institutions is also enormous. There are 13 hospitals, a house-of-refuge for married women, a magdalene, a foundling hospital, a general hospital for sick, poor, and beggars, several houses for orphan girls, a general hospital for Indians, the expenses of which are defrayed by themselves, another hospital for the same purpose erected and supported by the descendants of Cortez, and an hospital for lepers. The civil and military officers have also a chest for the relief of their widows, who derive a revenue equal to one-fourth of their husband's salary.

*Danger from inundations.* The situation of M. is rendered daily more dangerous, by the circumstance that the difference of level between Lake Texcoco and the soil on which the houses are constructed diminishes annually. This soil forms a fixed plane, especially since the streets of M. were paved; the bottom of the lake, on the contrary, is continually elevated by the mud washed down by the surrounding torrents. It was to avoid a similar danger that the Venetians turned from their lagunes, the Brenta, Livenza, and other rivulets, which form their alluvial deposits within them. If we could place much reliance upon the results of the levelling made in the sixteenth century, there would be no doubt that the Plaza Mayor or Great square of M. had formerly been elevated 11 decimetres = 43½ inches above the level of the lake of Texcoco, and that the mean level of the lake varies from year to year. On the one hand

the moisture of the atmosphere has diminished by the destruction of the forests, and consequently the sources of the streams flowing from the mountains which surround the valley have been lessened; but, on the other hand, the clearing of the ground has increased the quantity of alluvial deposit, and the rapidity of the inundations. The *desague* or drain, designed to carry off the superfluous waters of the lake of Zumpango and San-Christoval, is a magnificent work. It was begun in 1607, by Enrico Martinez; and 15,000 Indians were compelled to toil at the work for 11 months, till at length a subterranean passage was effected upwards of 20,000 ft. in length. This first tunnel, however, filled up, owing to the caving in of the earth; and it was at length determined to make an open cut through the hill of Nochistongo, which, after encountering great difficulties, was completed in 1789, at the cost of the lives of some thousands of Indians. This canal, cut through clay, marl, gravel, and sand, is from 100 to 130 ft. deep, and at the summit between 200 and 300 ft. wide. Its length, from the sluice of Vestideros to the fall of the river of Tula, is upwards of 67,000 ft., or more than four leagues and a half. The cap is still, however, exposed to inundations from the N and NW, in the event of any sudden swelling of the lakes in that direction, through continued rains, or any sudden or extraordinary melting of the snows on the mountains. "We descended," says a recent traveller, "to the bottom of the canal, by steps cut in the indurated clay, and were very much surprised to see only a small rivulet flowing through a canal of such vast dimensions. A large body of water passes off by means of this drain in the rainy seasons; but now the stream is not more than a foot deep, and two or three wide. The sides of the canal are so perpendicular that they are constantly caving in, but from the rapidity of the current no inconvenience has arisen from the accumulation of dirt at the bottom. On the edge of the canal we saw small hillocks formed by the rubbish thrown out in the progress of the work; but they are now covered with verdure." The lakes of Chalco and of Xochimilco must necessarily overflow their banks whenever a violent eruption of the adjoining volcano causes the snows which cover its summit to melt. "When I was at Guayaquil, on the borders of the province of Quito, in 1802," says the Baron Humboldt, "the cone of Cotopaxi was heated by subterranean fire to such a degree that in a single night it lost the vast garment of snow with which it had long been covered." It may easily be imagined how dangerous the situation of M. must be in a climate where, in the driest years, the rain falls to the depth of about 59 inches. The inhabitants think that these violent inundations follow each other at nearly equal periods of time. Since the arrival of the Spaniards, M. has experienced five great inundations, in 1553, 1580, 1604, 1607, and 1629. In consequence of the opening of the canal, these evils were partially averted; and since that time their effects have been less violent, occurring at intervals of 27, 24, 3, 26, 19, 27, 32, 25, 16, 24, and 23 years.

*Railroads.* Don Juan de la Granja has constructed a telegraphic line between M. and Vera-Cruz. He had incredible objects to surmount, and scarcely a week goes by that the wires are not broken, and several hundred yards of copper wire carried off. He has in view the establishment of a line between M. and Guanajuato. — A company of influential and competent capitalists, Mexican and English, have, it is said, contracted with the government to build a railroad from Vera-Cruz to the city of M., and from thence to some point on the Pacific. The government concedes to them the exclusive and perpetual right for a railroad between Vera-Cruz, M., and any

point on the Pacific; grants perpetual exemption from duties upon all materials, coal, &c., used by the company; and admits all vessels belonging to the company free from tonnage and port charges. All public domain through which the road passes is given free, the usual space for good tracks being allowed; and land is also given free for depôts, station-houses, &c. The company bind themselves to commence the work within 3 years from Jan. 1850, to have 90 m. between Vera-Cruz and Mexico completed within 5 years from that date, to have it completed between those places within 10 years, and to have the whole line between the two oceans in operation within 20 years. The company are to establish their own rates for transportation of passengers and freight for the period of 5 years after the entire road is in operation. Government troops and materiel of war are to be carried at half the public rates, and the public mails are to be carried free. All persons employed by the company are to be free from tax of every description, also from civil and military duty. These liberal terms show how desirous the government is to secure a highway between the oceans, and such terms as it has granted ought to ensure the completion of the road within the time specified in the contract. If ever executed, it will possess the advantage over the Panama and Nicaragua routes of cutting short some thousands miles, and if carried out will no doubt prove a powerful rival to those routes.

The state of M. comprises an area of about 25,000 sq. m. of fertile and elevated land, extending from the W confines of Vera-Cruz to the shores of the Pacific, and from the frontiers of Michoacan and Queretaro on the NW to those of La-Puebla on the SE. Its pop. has been estimated at 1,389,520. Its cap., as distinct from the federal capital, is Tlalpan. Its chief port is Acapulco.

MEXICO, a township of Oxford co., in the state of Maine, U. S., 42 m. WNW of Augusta, on the N side of Androscoggin river, and watered by tributaries of that river. Pop. in 1840, 477.—Also a township of Oswego co., in the state of New York, 156 m. WNW of Albany. It has an undulating surface; and is bounded on the N by Salmon creek, an affluent of Lake Ontario. Its soil consists of clay and gravelly loam, and is very fertile. Pop. 3,729; of v. 500.—Also a village of Audrain co., in the state of Missouri, 47 m. N of Jefferson city, on the E side of Salt river.

MEXICO (GULF OF), a large gulf, forming nearly a mediterranean sea, being separated on the E from the Atlantic by a row of large islands and widely extended banks. It washes the shores of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, on the side of the United States, and those of New Santander, Vera Cruz, Tabasco, and Yucatan, on the side of Mexico. It extends between the 18th and 20th parallels of N lat., and is nearly of a circular form, but somewhat elongated from E to W. In the latter direction it is 1,150 m. long; in the transverse direction it is about 950 m. It opens in a SE direction, between the peninsula of Yucatan and Florida, or Capes Catoche and Sable, which are about 465 m. distant from each other. The island of Cuba divides this opening into two channels,—that on the SW communicating with the sea of the Antilles—the other to the NE with the Atlantic, by means of the straits of Bahama. South from the mouth of the Rio-del-Norte, round about to the mouth of the Rio-Avalarado, in 18° N lat., an extent of 600 m., this gulf does not present a single good port, for Vera Cruz is merely a bad anchorage amidst shallows. The Mexican coast may be considered as a sort of dyke, against which the waves, continually agitated by the trade-winds blowing from E to W, throw up the sands carried by the violent motion. The rivers descending from the Sierra-Madre, have also contributed to increase these sands, and the land is gaining on the sea. No vessels drawing more than 12½ in. water can pass over these sand-bars without danger of grounding. The Mississippi is the principal tributary of the gulf of M., and carries down with it, besides its vast body of waters, a prodigious quantity of organic and uorganic debris. The town of New Orleans, near the mouth of this river, is the principal commercial station along the whole gulf. In the middle of the gulf the winds blow regularly from the NE; but they vary considerably on approaching the shore. From the Mississippi, along the Florida coast, the SW wind blows violently in the

months of August, September, and October; the N wind prevails during the other nine months. Between the Mississippi and San-Bernardo, the wind generally blows in the morning from the SE or ESE, and in the evening from the SW. Between Catoche and Campeachy the reigning wind, during a great part of the year, blows from the NE; but from the end of April to September, it comes from the opposite direction. The most remarkable current in the gulf, is that called the GULF-STREAM: see that article.

MEXICO (New), a recently annexed territory of the United States, formerly one of the federal states of Mexico. If we accept the widest boundaries attributed to the country, it would extend from 32° 30' to 42° N lat., and from 100° to 114° W long.; but as the country of the wild Indians has never been under the jurisdiction or control of the Mexicans, and settlements have never extended over the whole territory, the name of New M. has generally been applied only to the settled country between 32° 30' and 38° N lat., and from about 104° and 108° W long. Texas claims a portion of this territory. The general aspect of the country is mountainous, with a large valley in the middle running from N to S, and formed by the Rio-Grande-del-Norte. The valley is generally about 20 m. wide, and is bordered on the E and W by mountain-chains, continuations of the Rocky mountains, which have here received various names, as Sierra-Blanca, Sierra de los-Organos, Sierra-Oscura, &c., on the E side; and Sierra-de los-Grullas, de-Acha, de los-Mimbres, &c., on the W side. The height of these mountains S of Santa Fé may upon an average be between 6,000 and 8,000 ft.; while near Santa Fé, and in the more northern regions, some snow-covered peaks may rise from 10,000 to 12,000 ft. above the sea. The mountains are principally composed of igneous rocks, as granite, sienite, diorite, basalt, &c. On the higher mountains excellent pine-timber grows; on the lower, cedars, and sometimes oak; and in the central valleys, mezquite, &c.—The main artery of New M. is the Rio-Grande, a large river, whose head-waters were explored in 1807 by Captain Pike, between 37° and 38° N lat.; but its highest sources are some two degrees further N, in the recesses of the Rocky mountains, near the head-waters of the Arkansas and the Colorado of the W. Following a generally southern direction, it passes through New M., where its principal affluent is the Rio-Chamas from the W, and winds its way in a SE direction, dividing the United States from the republic of Mexico. Its tributaries below New M. are, from the N the Rio-Pecos, and from the S the Conchos, Salado, Alamo, and San-Juan. The length of the river in a straight line is about 1,200 m.; but from the meandering of its lower course, it runs at least 2,000 m. from the region of eternal snows to the almost tropical climate of the gulf. The elevation of the river above the sea at Albuquerque is about 4,800 ft.; at El-Paso, about 3,800 ft.; and at Reynosa, between 300 and 400 m. from its mouth, about 170 ft. The fall between Albuquerque and El-Paso is from 2 to 3 ft. in a mile, and below El-Paso about 1 ft. in 2 m. The principal advantage at present derived from the river is by a well-managed system of irrigation. As to its navigation in New M., it is doubtful if even canoes could be used, except perhaps during May or June, when the river is in its highest state from the melting of the snow in the mountains; it is too shallow, and interrupted by too many sand-bars, to promise anything for navigation. Steam-boats may ascend from the gulf of Mexico as far as Laredo, a distance of 700 m. "Whenever a closer connection between this head point of navigation and New M. shall be considered," says Dr. Wislizenus, "nothing would answer but a railroad crossing from the valley of the Rio-Grande to the high table-land in the state of Chihuahua."

Soil, &c.] The soil in the valley of New M. is



generally sandy and poor, but by irrigation it produces abundant crops. Though agriculture is carried on in a very primitive way, with the hoe alone, or with a rough plough made entirely of wood, the inhabitants raise large quantities of Indian corn and wheat, beans, onions, red pepper, and fruits. The most fertile part of the valley begins below Santa Fé, along the river, and is called 'rio abajo,' or the country down the river. The general dryness of the climate, and the aridity of the soil, however, will always confine agriculture to the valleys of the water-courses in New M. "But this important defect," says Dr. Wislizenus, "may be remedied by Artesian wells. On several occasions I remarked on the high table-land of Santa Fé, S., that in a certain depth layers of clay are found, that may form reservoirs of sunken water-courses from the eastern to the western chain, which, by the improved method of boring, or Artesian wells, might be easily made to yield their waters to the surface." The best cultivated lands of New M. are found on the *estancias* or large estates. These, a remnant of the old feudal system, were granted with the Indians and all other appurtenances, by the Spanish crown to favourite vassals. The great numbers of human beings attached to these estates are nothing more than mere serfs, receiving from their task-masters food, lodging, and clothing, and are kept in a constant indebtedness to their employers, so that should their natural indolence and apathy not constrain them to remain with their hereditary lords, the enforcement of the Mexican laws of debtor and creditor would be sufficient to continue them in a state of servitude from generation to generation. The inhabitants of New M. pay considerable attention to the raising of stock, and the great owners are possessed of large numbers of horses, mules, cattle, and sheep.

*Mines.* The mines of New M. are very rich, but mining operations have been much neglected, and a great many of the most valuable have been entirely deserted, owing chiefly to the unsettled state of the country, the invasions of the Indians, and perhaps, in a majority of cases, to the avarice of government. Gold, silver, iron, and copper, are plentiful in the mountains. Gold has been found in all the Santa Fé district, S. of it for 100 m. as far as Gran Quivira, and N. 120 m., up to the river Sangre-de-Cristo. About Santa Fé the washes are very rich, and some gold-mines are also worked there. These mines, according to Dr. Wislizenus, are the only mines of any consequence worked at the present time in New M. As to the annual amount of gold produced, no account or estimate is given; nearly all the gold is bought up by the Santa Fé traders, and finds its way to the United States. Several rich silver-mines were worked by the Spaniards at Avo, at Cerrillos, and in the Nambé mountains, but operations have long since ceased. Copper is abundant throughout the country, especially at Las-Tijeras, Jemas, Abiquin, Guadalupe-de-Mora, &c. Iron, though equally abundant, is entirely overlooked, being considered of little value. Coal has been discovered in a number of places. Gypsum, common and selenite, is found in large quantities. It is used as lime for white-washing, and the crystalline or selenite instead of window glass. About 100 m. SSE of Santa Fé, on the high table-lands between the Del-Norte and Pecos, are some extensive salt lakes or *salinas*, from which all the domestic salt used in New M. is procured. Large caravans go there from Santa Fé in the dry season, and return with as much as they can conveniently transport. The merchants exchange 1 bushel of salt for an equal quantity of wheat, or sell it for 1 or even 2 dollars a-bushel. "Not far from these *salinas*," says Dr. Wislizenus, "the ruins of an old city are found,

the fabulous La Gran Quivira. The common report in relation to this place is, that a large and wealthy city was once here situated, with very rich mines, the produce of which was once or twice a-year sent to Spain. At one season, when making extraordinary preparations for transporting the precious metals, the Indians attacked the inhabitants, whereupon the miners buried their treasures worth 50,000,000 d., and left the city; but they were all killed except two, who went to Mexico. One of the two went to New Orleans, then under the dominion of Spain, raised 500 men, and started by way of the Sabine, but was never heard of afterwards. Within the last few years several Americans and Frenchmen have visited the place; and although they have not found the treasure, they certify at least to the existence of an aqueduct about 10 m. in length, to the still standing walls of several churches, the sculptures of the Spanish coat of arms, and to many spacious pits, supposed to be silver-mines. It was no doubt a Spanish mining-town, and it is not unlikely it was destroyed in 1680, in the general successful insurrection of the Indians in New M. against the Spaniards."

*Climate.* The climate of New M. is generally temperate and healthy. Considerable atmospheric differences, however, are experienced in the mountain districts, and in the low valley of the Rio-del-Norte. In the latter the summer heat sometimes rises to 100°, but the nights are always cool and pleasant. The winters are comparatively long, and the higher mountains are always covered with snow, and ice and snow are common at Santa Fé, but the main river is never frozen over strong enough to admit the passage of horses and carriages. "No person," says Pike, "accustomed to reside in the temperate climate of the 36th and 37th parallels of N lat. of the United States, can form any idea of the piercing cold experienced in that latitude in New M. But the air is serene, not subject to damps or fogs, as it rains but once a-year, and some years not at all." The sky is generally clear and dry, owing to the condensation of moisture on the surrounding hills. The months of July and October constitute the rainy season, but the rains are neither so heavy nor so regular in their returns as on the more southern parts of the continent. Inflammations and typhoid fevers occasionally prevail in the winter season; but bilious diseases, so common in the valleys of the Mississippi and its tributary streams, are here little known.

*Population.* The whole pop. of New M. was in 1793, according to a census, 30,953. In 1833 it was calculated to be 52,000, and that number consisted of:

Gaspachines (native Spaniards),	2,618
Creoles,	10,472
Mestizos of all grades,	13,090
Pueblo Indians,	26,180

In 1842 the pop. was estimated at 57,026; at the present time it may amount to between 60,000 and 70,000 souls. The constitution of society in New M. is similar to that of all Mexico. While the higher classes conform to the dictates of modern fashion, the mass of the people adhere to the manners and customs of former times. The men are faithful to their *serapes* or coloured blankets, and to their wide trousers with glittering buttons, split from hip to ankle to give the white cotton drawers a chance to be seen; the ladies of all classes retain the *rebozo* or small shawl drawn over their heads, which gives them a coquettish appearance. Both sexes enjoy their *cigarritos*, their *post prandium* siesta, and their evening amusement at *monte* or *fandangos*. Their dances are very graceful, and combine the quadrille and waltz. The prominent ingredient in the Mexican race is their Indian blood; it is visible in their features, complexion, and acts.